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## Heseltine reveals the deal that made him Major's deputy



Heseltine: "No deceit"

By PHILIP WEBSTER and PETER RIDDELL

JOHN MAJOR informally offered Michael Heseltine the post of his deputy three weeks before he suddenly called the Tory leadership election last June. The Deputy Prime Minister reveals in an interview with *The Times* today.

In a series of disclosures which throw fresh light on the Prime Minister's coup that eventually saw him re-elected in a straight fight with John Redwood, Mr Heseltine tells of a private late-night Commons meeting in which he first

learned that Mr Major wanted him as his No 2, another at which Mr Major revealed that he was going to "lance the boil" by taking on allcomers in a contest, and a third encounter on the day of the election when Mr Major confirmed that he would get the job of the deputy if he won.

The interview confirms for the first time that long before he called the election Mr Major had spoken of a significant promotion with the man who at that time was considered the favourite to succeed him if he was ousted by Tory MPs. Asked by *The Times* whether Mr

Major might have made the move to get him on his side in advance, Mr Heseltine replied that such a "Machiavellian interpretation" had not occurred to him.

Mr Heseltine discloses that when Mr Major told him, a day or two before he announced it, of his intention to resign the Tory leadership and force a contest he had supported the idea. He strongly implies that he also told Mr Major that he would not be taking part.

## Now give up your guns, says Major

# Clinton appeals for assistance of nationalists

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WATT IN DUBLIN

BILL CLINTON completed his hugely successful trip to Britain and Ireland last night by appealing to Irish nationalists to help the peace process, telling them to show understanding for the position of Ulster's Unionists.

In Dublin, the President's appeal brought 100,000 cheering people on to the streets to hear a passionate plea for a lasting solution to the troubles and an end to bloodshed. He won praise from all sides for giving a huge boost to the Ulster peace process.

The British and Irish governments sought to capitalise on the new momentum by inviting all Northern Ireland's political parties to preliminary talks beginning as soon as possible.

John Major seized on the President's success to restate his demand for the IRA to begin disarmament. "Can anyone who witnessed President Clinton's remarkable visit seriously contemplate a return to bombing and shooting?" he asked in a speech to a Tory Women's conference in Westminster.

The preliminary talks — part of the new Anglo-Irish "twin track" approach — will run concurrently with an independent commission examining the key issue of disarming the paramilitaries.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said the President's visit had launched the "twin track" plan with the "fairest possible wind". Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said it had "given great stimulus, great heart, great encouragement".

President Clinton, in his speech to a huge crowd gathered in the heart of Dublin, told Irish nationalists to think of the Unionists: "Realise how difficult it is for them having been in patterns of opposition for so long. Realise that those of you who have more emotional and physical space must reach out and help them take those next hard steps."

It was an effort worth making because "we have more in common with people who appear on the surface to be different from us than most of us know. We have more to gain by reaching out in the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood to those people than we can possibly know."

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said Mr Clinton was very encouraged by the responses of Gerry Adams and David Trimble during his talks with them on Thursday but had made little headway with the Rev Ian Paisley.



Pure genius: President Clinton with a half pint of Murphy's stout from a barrel the Cork brewery had smuggled into Guinness territory

## Bitter rivalry for stout coup

By ROBIN YOUNG

WHEN President Clinton stepped into Cassidy's pub in Dublin and raised the proffered half pint of stout to his lips he started a propaganda war between rival breweries that is destined to become part of the city's rich mythology.

Everyone assumed that the President would be drinking Guinness, a stout as dark as Dublin's Liffey River and as much a part of Irish identity as the shamrock.

But Murphy's, a rival brewery from Cork in the south-west of Ireland, claimed that it had had the honour of providing the President's drink. The brewery said a single keg of Murphy's stout had been taken into Cassidy's back snug with a special tap to dispense it to the presidential party.

Austin Kelly, 34, the barman, confirmed that the President had been served Murphy's. President Clinton had been taken into the snug with John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, and Dick Spring, the Foreign Minister, where they were greeted by Marien Kakebeke, Murphy's managing director.

Mr Kelly said: "This is to welcome you to Cassidy's pub and to Ireland." The President lifted the glass and responded: "Sláinte" (Irish for "Cheers"). Cassidy's is normally a Guinness house but also has a tap selling Heineken lager. Murphy's, formerly owned by

Continued on page 2, col 3

## Solana is new Nato chief

Javier Solana, the Spanish Socialist Foreign Minister and a former critic of Spain's membership of the Western alliance, was appointed Nato Secretary-General. He succeeds the disgraced Willy Claes, who was forced to resign in October. Page 15

## INSIDE

The great British beef debate  
Page 5



Simon Jenkins on why John Major should intervene in America  
Page 20

## Leeson faces 8 years in jail

By ROBERT MILLER

NICK LEESON, the dealer whose trading led to the collapse of Barings, will be sentenced today in a Singapore court after pleading guilty to two of the 11 charges he faced.

The rapid judicial process in Singapore comes after nearly two months of behind-the-scenes negotiation between John Koh, Leeson's Singapore lawyer, and the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD). In a brief court appearance yesterday, Leeson pleaded guilty to two charges of cheating, which together carry a maximum sentence of eight years.

The 28-year-old rogue trader from Watford might have expected a term of up to 14 years when he returned to the island state ten days ago to face 11 charges of forgery and cheating. Leeson's trial took place nine months to the day after the Barings' trader was arrested at Frankfurt airport where he touched down, with his wife Lisa, en route to Britain.

Leeson's dealings on the Far East money markets are blamed for the £860 million collapse of the 233-year-old merchant bank. The crash is still being investigated by the CAD as is the role of Mr Leeson's superiors in Singapore and London.

The former trader has admitted cheating Barings' auditors, Coopers and Lybrand, by telling them that he had enough money to cover his trading activities. This carries up to a year's imprisonment. He has also acknowledged that he deceived the

Singapore International Monetary Exchange, and persuaded it to release more than £76 million, which carries a maximum seven-year term. Nine further charges are to be taken into consideration.

In making a plea of mitigation, Mr Koh pointed out that Leeson had returned voluntarily, had apologised for having doubted that he would receive a fair trial and had co-operated with CAD investigators. He also told the court that Leeson was prepared to pay nearly £70,000 towards the prosecution's costs.

Byline: The Times overseas  
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# THE TIMES ON MONDAY

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make England  
fizz again?

Alan Lee  
reports on  
the second Test



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Oliver Holt at the British Ice Hockey Cup and  
Andrew Longmore on Wimbledon v Newcastle



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A HOLIDAY FOR TWO TO BE WON

# Major ready for isolation over single currency

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR made it clear last night that he is prepared for isolation over a single European currency. The Prime Minister, looking ahead to the European Union summit in Madrid this month, said he would not be prepared to submit to other countries' demands at the expense of Britain's interests.

With Spain and Germany reportedly increasing pressure for a single currency within five years, Mr Major said: "I act in Europe with only one interest in mind: Britain's national interest. Sometimes that means we can't agree with our European partners. If that's the case, so be it."

The Prime Minister's remarks to the Conservative Women's Conference in London came after it became clear that Britain had been isolated by all its European partners over its calls for next year's intergovernmental conference on Europe to consider curbing the powers of the European Court of Justice.

Mr Major's hardline stance underlined the Euro-sceptic mood he has adopted since his re-election as party leader in July. He made clear that his attitude to Europe was in stark contrast to that of Tony Blair who, he said, would never be isolated in Europe.

In a series of personal attacks on Mr Blair, he drew attention to the Labour leader's lack of experience in

Europe. Recalling his own decision to secure an opt-out on the single currency and social chapter, Mr Major said that the Labour leader's compliance with Europe would have cost jobs.

"The fact is, even if you prefer co-operation to confrontation, sometimes it is necessary to stand up for British interests. I believe that is the job of the British Prime Minister. If you are not prepared to do the job, don't seek it."

He also used his speech to underline his commitment to maintaining the Union but insisted that his own patriotism was not "jingoistic tub-thumping" but a deep respect for people and traditions.

Mr Major praised plans set out by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, for devolving some government powers to Scottish local authorities. He said that "to meet the challenges ahead, we must accept change where change is due", but derided Labour's plans for devolution. He claimed Labour "either fail to grasp the dangers of such devolution, or they're prepared to sell the crown jewels of our political heritage in a desperate bid for votes."

Although some people in Scotland wanted independence, there was nothing to stop them going their own way, but it was his job as Prime Minister to point out the dangers of that happening.

## Bitter stout rivalry

Continued from page 1  
a consortium of publicans, now belongs to Heineken.

When Guinness were told of Murphy's coup, they initially claimed the barman had assured them the President had been served their brew. "I met the President myself," said Pat Barry, Guinness's public relations director. "When he heard we were from Guinness he said: 'I am a great fan'."

Colin Storm, managing director of Guinness Ireland, had a similar story.

Later, as more reports from Cassidy's filtered back, word spread that Murphy's had paid £10,000 for the privilege. Guinness sent a top salesman to Cassidy's to try to discover what had really happened. Spokesmen now claimed that the President had been served Guinness at the main bar, while Murphy's was dispensed surreptitiously in the snug.

Murphy's advertising slogan, "but I'm not bitter", may now be reworked to make use of the stout's presidential connection.

Mr Kakebeeke said: "We are very pleased to be able to bring a little piece of Cork to Dublin. We had hoped to give

the President a real Munster welcome when he came to Ballyunion. Instead, we have brought the best of Munster to Dublin for him."

The pub stop was intended for the President and 150 other visiting Americans, but somehow nearly 300 managed to cram in to the bar, making it as full as on an average Friday night. Mrs Clinton restricted herself to a cup of tea and left after 20 minutes. Mr Clinton, who is not known as a devotee of the beers of the British Isles, manfully but slowly sank his half pint.

Cassidy's almost lost its moment of fame. When White House officials visited it earlier this week, they told the management to do something about the lingering smell of chip fat, or the visit would be cancelled. When they returned on Thursday, they were met by an overpowering smell of disinfectant: more threats of cancellation. By yesterday, all noxious smells had miraculously evaporated.

The last American President to visit the Irish Republic was Ronald Reagan, who toasted the land of his forefathers with a pint of Smittwick's Bitter, brewed in Kilkenny.



President Clinton and his wife Hillary amid the 100,000 crowd yesterday

# Dublin throngs to cheer its latest city freeman

By ALAN HAMILTON

IN AN unashamedly sentimental celebration of the Irish-American love affair, about 100,000 people thronged Dublin's College Green yesterday to see President Clinton receive the freedom of the city.

Determined to outdo the rapturous welcomes accorded the Clintons in Belfast and Londonderry on Thursday, Dublin provided its biggest crowd since Jack Charlton brought the national football squad home from the 1990 World Cup. The White House had, as ever, insisted that the area be closed to all traffic.

Not that even a racing bicycle could have got through. From the stage in front of the building that 200 years ago housed the nation's Parliament until its union with Westminster, the crowd filled the broad avenue for 400 yards. Small boys climbed the brooding statues of Irish patriots for a view above the heaving sea of Irish and American flags.

The Clintons arrived nearly an hour late, to prolonged cheering and flag-waving, fol-

lowing a succession of noisy rock performers. The President waved back energetically and punched the air in delight.

Sean Loftus, the Lord Mayor, tried without success to be solemn, welcoming the President first in Irish, then in English. "We do not confer the freedom of our city lightly," he said, intoning the names of some of the previous recipients: Ulysses S. Grant (small cheer), John F. Kennedy (big cheer), Nelson Mandela (enormous cheer).

Mr Clinton signed his name in a large leather-bound book, and held up the vellum scroll of civic freedom which he can now hang on the Oval Office wall. The crowd roared its approval. With the freedom came a civic gift, a Waterford crystal sculpture officially described as "a synergy between the Irish harp and the American bald eagle."

Mr Clinton then took off his heavy black overcoat, and spoke for 20 minutes, drawing applause at every pause for his praise of the work of Irish peacekeeping troops round

the world; for his historical allusions to famine and emigration; for his listing of the nation's cultural ambassadors; and for his quotation from the Nobel prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney: "We are living in a moment where hope and history rhyme."

The final ovation was tumultuous. The President then plunged into the crowd on a ten-minute walkabout, returning to the stage for a brief final wave as the army band struck up Glenn Miller's *American Patrol*.

By late afternoon, after three big speeches, a press conference and a tree-planting in the garden of President Robinson's official residence, Mr Clinton needed a drink. Accompanied by Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, the presidential party headed for Cassidy's Bar where Mr Clinton sampled a glass of Murphy's Cork stout. The bar is behind Garda headquarters: to their intense chagrin, it had been closed to regular drinkers since early morning on the orders of the Secret Service.

## Rail fares set to increase by 3.5%

Train fares are likely to rise by up to 3.5 per cent next month, slightly ahead of the current inflation rate of 3.2 per cent. British Rail said yesterday.

The rise is in line with the Government's fare-capping regime, unveiled by Brian Mawhinney in May, when he was Transport Secretary. Many local fares will stay the same or be reduced slightly.

Although the average increases are between 2.5 and 3.5 per cent, a handful of fares on some commuter routes will rise by up to 5 per cent. Labour attacked the increase and said it exposed the inadequacy of the Government's guarantees.

## Howard replies

Michael Howard was forced yesterday to placate the judiciary over his "tougher sentencing" plans after Lord Donaldson of Lynton, former Master of the Rolls, accused him and the Government of taking over their sentencing powers. Mr Howard said that his plans for minimum sentences for burglars and drug dealers, and for automatic life for repeat rapists, would not remove the discretion of judges.

## Legal block

The High Court upheld a decision not to bring a manslaughter prosecution against a company that owned a lorry with "grossly defective brakes" which crashed killing six people. The decision had been challenged by Brenda Waterworth, widow of the lorry driver. The accident happened at Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, in 1993.

## Kidnap charges

A man appeared in court charged with kidnapping two girls who went missing from their homes for three days. The girls, aged nine and ten, were found by police on Wednesday. Andrew Breddon, 32, of Leicester was remanded in custody until Wednesday at the city's magistrates' court. He was also accused of possessing drugs worth £140,000.

## Youths in court

Two 15-year-old boys from Doncaster will appear before magistrates today charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Paul Blackshaw, 18, who is in intensive care after falling from the top floor of a moving double-decker bus on Wednesday. Mr Blackshaw, a YTS trainee, is expected to be taken off a ventilator within the next 24 hours.

## Times Magazine

A printing error in page 17 of today's *Magazine* has removed the final two lines of the interview with Marco Pierre White. The last paragraph should read: "For there in the dining-room, surrounded by duchesses and city wide boys, I had the best meal of my life. Marco's cooking is out of this world. But then, so is he."

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NATIONAL  
SAVINGS

# US court jails Bhagwan disciples who conspired to kill investigating lawyer

## British women get five years for cult murder plot

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN PORTLAND, OREGON

TWO British women who belonged to the exotic cult of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh were both sentenced to five years in jail in America yesterday for conspiring to murder a senior figure in the US judiciary. Their sentence will not start until January 12 so that they can spend Christmas and New Year with their families but they will not be able to leave America.

Susan Hagan, 48, and Sally Ann Croft, 45, were jailed for their part in a plot to murder Attorney General Charles Turner, a presidential appointee. They must serve at least a third of their sentence in Geiger Federal Penitentiary, Washington State, before they are eligible for parole.

Mr Turner was targeted by disciples of the Bhagwan because they were anxious to halt an investigation which he had launched into immigration fraud at the Indian guru's headquarters.

Afterwards Mr Turner attacked British critics of the women's extradition and trial. The retired lawyer also insisted that "direct responsibility for the delay in this case lies with the accused because they

fled from Oregon and then fought extradition tooth and nail for several years". The sentencing ends an extraordinary saga which began as a journey of self-discovery for the two women and ended as a test of America's extradition treaty with Britain.

To establish the women's role in the plot, prosecutors listed 19 "overt acts" of conspiracy, including funding the purchase of guns and ordering round-the-clock surveillance of Mr Turner as he closed in on the Bhagwan in 1985.

Ms Croft, from Greenwich, south London, was chief accountant at the Oregon commune and is believed to have continued working for her London employer, the City firm of Ernst & Young, while on bail. Mrs Hagan, who has since worked as an aromatherapist in Hertfordshire, was the commune's mayor. Prosecutors successfully argued that as members of the Bhagwan's inner circle they were privy to the plot.

The trial, held in America after a four-year fight against extradition, brought protests from British politicians, in-

cluding Tony Blair, then Shadow Home Secretary, over the five-year gap between crime and court appearance. The Earl of Longford and Lord Searman also objected on the basis that witnesses' memories would have faded.

Concern was also expressed over the possibility of tainted evidence: most prosecution witnesses were former cult members who reached plea-bargains with the US government in exchange for testifying.

Supporters of the two women also protested at the trial being held in Oregon, where anti-Rajneesh sentiment was once intense. At its height the commune took over the town of Antelope, renamed it Rajneeshpuram and built shopping complexes, an airport and garages for the Bhagwan's 93 Rolls Royces.

His disciples also tried to rig a county election by providing 3,000 specially-imported homeless people with forged voting cards and poisoning 900 bona fide voters by sprinkling the salmonella virus over the salad bar at a popular restaurant. Some disciples, known as Rajneeshes, have



Sally Ann Croft, left, and Susan Hagan. Politicians have criticised the delay in bringing them to trial

already served prison sentences for these crimes.

But it is over the murder conspiracy that the US Justice Department has been most dogged, sending lawyers to South Africa and Switzerland to track down Rajneeshes who fled there after the cult collapsed in 1985. Die-hard members who have set up a new commune in Poona, near

Bombay, have accused "Christian fundamentalists" in the Reagan administration of using the judicial system for political ends in an "orchestrated campaign" to run the Bhagwan out of Oregon.

This week, in a statement to *The Times*, the new commune accused the authorities in Oklahoma of poisoning the Bhagwan "with radiation,

thallium, or perhaps both" during the guru's brief spell in custody before he was deported to India in 1985. His health deteriorated rapidly and he died in 1990.

Ms Croft, whose cult name was Prem Savita, was said by her lawyer to be "philosophical" over the verdict. The Bhagwan's vision of Utopia was based on guilt-free love,

new age theology and the lavish spending of his followers' money.

Several prosecution witnesses blamed the commune's collapse on the Bhagwan's chief of staff, an Indian woman known as Ma Anand Sheela who is still at large, possibly in Switzerland, and is still being sought by the American authorities.

## Ashby says he shared bed with fellow MP

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MPs sometimes share a bed on foreign trips to save money, the Tory MP David Ashby told the High Court yesterday.

Mr Ashby said on the eighth day of his libel action against *The Sunday Times* that it was "unimportant" whether he had slept with a man. "There have been times when the fees office which controls expenditure—they will allow so much and you don't go over that—has meant that on occasions you will have to share with another Member of Parliament," he said.

Richard Hartley, QC, for the newspaper, asked him to name the MPs he had slept with. Mr Ashby refused, but said he would write down the names for the judge and jury.

Mr Hartley asked, after looking at what he said was one name on the piece of paper handed to him from the witness box: "Is it a case of a choice? You are allowed so many dollars and you can spend it on rooms or meals?" Mr Ashby: "No, no. There is a meal allowance."

Mr Ashby is suing *The Sunday Times* and its former Editor Andrew Neil over an article in January 1994 which said that he shared a double-bed with a man friend during a holiday in Goa. The newspaper accepts that the report was wrong but denies libel and asserts that Mr Ashby is a homosexual.

The case continues.

## Straw quells student unrest at son's school

BY DAVID CHARTER AND EDWARD GORMAN

JACK STRAW, the Shadow Home Secretary, has held crisis talks with pupils at his son's school after they went on strike over the controversial departure of a favourite teacher.

Mr Straw is chairman of governors at Pimlico School, a popular inner London comprehensive, where youngsters boycotted lessons this week after learning of the early retirement of Winston Manyan, a languages teacher.

Mr Manyan left after dropping an industrial tribunal claim for racial discrimination against Kathleen Wood, the head teacher, who is on sick leave.

The incident brought turmoil to the oversubscribed school, known locally for its harmonious multiracial atmosphere and good examination results. Mr Manyan was head of the fifth form, which includes Mr Straw's son Wil-



Straw: praised for his intervention in dispute

liam. In an emotional final assembly on Tuesday on the subject of bullying, Mr Manyan allegedly told pupils he felt picked on by school management.

Pupils claim he was then banished from the premises and they refused to attend their afternoon lessons in protest. The next day the strike spread to all years, although many youngsters

were persuaded to return to their desks. Mr Straw met students and staff on Thursday to calm the situation. But pupils said their protests would continue unless there was a formal apology and a "proper send-off" for Mr Manyan, and an independent inquiry into how the matter was handled.

A meeting of the school's governors on Monday is to discuss the situation.

Sir Ashley Bramall, a former chairman of the Inner London Education Authority and another governor, said the dispute was out of character for the school. "This is why the pupils took it so badly—because the equal opportunities policy is very real in the school. It is a very happy and non-violent community."

Students praised Mr Straw for intervening in the dispute. Eleanor Newbiggin, 15, a student delegate, said Mr Straw played a vital role as an intermediary. "He's been the bridge across both parties. We have told him what we want. We think he has done a good job. He has been very professional, especially because he has not brought politics into it in any way."

Other students and parents backed the school. Hannah Murphy, 18, said: "I think it is ridiculous when people say this school is racist. It's a very good school; an inner city, multicultural school."

One father said he and most other parents fully supported the head teacher. He said: "Knowing Miss Wood and Winston Manyan, it just doesn't add up. I think it's been blown all out of proportion by the student body and they are all jumping on the bandwagon."

He said he considered Miss Wood to be a first-rate head teacher and said it would be a tragedy if she was forced out by this dispute.

## Dispute sours 25 years of valued teaching

PIMLICO SCHOOL celebrated its 25th anniversary last Saturday with a gathering of parents, past and present pupils and local politicians (David Charter writes).

There was no hint of the turmoil to come this week with the acrimonious departure of Winston Manyan. He spent 14 years at the community comprehensive which is so popular with parents it has to turn away scores of applicants each year.

The school was designed in the 1960s and inhabits a concrete structure said to have been based on a beached ship but looking

more like a marooned spacecraft. In its short history, Pimlico has built up a reputation to match that of the two grammar schools, secondary modern and boys' technical school it replaced. About 40 per cent of pupils gain at least five good GCSEs.

Jack Straw is one of those parents from across the Thames who clamour to have their children among the 240 admitted each year. There are two Lambeth comprehensives closer to home: nevertheless Pimlico School was his choice for young William, who is now in his GCSE year—the year headed, until this week, by Mr Manyan.

## Mourners pay tribute to Leah

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE funeral of Leah Betts, which took place yesterday, will be screened in schools across Britain as a warning against drug misuse. A television crew filmed mourners in the tiny Victorian church in Essex, at the request of Leah's parents, for a police educational video.

Mr Betts, 49, a retired police inspector, spoke of his pride and love for his daughter who died after taking a single Ecstasy pill at her 18th birthday party at the family home in Latchingdon.

In an analogy based on the family's favourite pastime of sailing, Mr Betts described Leah as "his pretty little ship". He thought he had prepared the ship for anything it might encounter. "One day," he said, "the little ship was to enter uncharted waters, unbeknown to its captain. All of a



Leah Betts: died after taking Ecstasy pill

sudden, a gigantic wave lifted the little ship into the air and tossed it onto jagged rocks." Leah's brother William, 11, also spoke movingly of his sister as a "beautiful rose which stood out from all the other flowers". He said: "The lovely rose grew too close to a weed which started to wrap

around it and as it struggled to get free the weed became too tight and the rose died."

The Rev Dr Don Gordon described Leah as "a loving, lovable and lovely girl" with an enthusiasm for life who had dreamed of becoming a teacher. Referring to Leah's father and stepmother, Jan, who have set up a charitable trust to campaign against drug abuse, he asked: "Could it be that in ten or fifteen years observers will look back and say: 'That was the turning point?'"

More than 100 people had gathered inside the church, many of them students at Basildon College, where Leah was studying. Many were huddled outside, listening to the service through loudspeakers. Leah's coffin was led out of the church to the sound of Whitney Houston singing *I Will Always Love You*. She was buried in Billericay beside her mother Dorothy who died in 1992.

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# Concern over 'mad cow' disease prompts scientists to re-examine their eating habits

## Brain specialist is challenged to justify burger scare

By MICHAEL HORNSEY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has called on Professor Sir Bernard Tomlinson, an eminent authority on brain disease, to explain his claims that eating beefburgers, beef liver and meat pies could cause the human equivalent of "mad cow" disease.

Angela Browning, Junior Agriculture Minister, said: "I have invited Sir Bernard to tell us why he has come to this conclusion. He does not seem to be basing it on scientific evidence."

Sir Bernard, a neuro-pathologist, told the BBC Radio 4 consumer programme *You and Yours* yesterday that he was still eating steak and beef but would not eat beefburgers "under any circumstances". He also recommended a ban on all beef offal and said "nor would I eat beef liver or meat pies".

Although he admitted that he had no proof of a link between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD), the counterpart human condition, he said that the risk was too great to be discounted.

Afterwards he told *The Times*: "I certainly would advise teenagers not to eat these things. I have become more cautious because of recent CJD cases in dairy farmers and teenagers. These seem to be more than coincidence. My feeling now is that it is



Sir Bernard says risk is too great to ignore

possible BSE is transmitting to humans."

A survey by *The Times* found growing concern among scientists, doctors and veterinary surgeons, about the possible risk to the public from BSE. Seven out of 16 of those questioned, including Sir Bernard, had either stopped eating beef or were being more careful about what sort of meat products they ate. Although most were still eating beef in some form, the range of views they expressed suggested uncertainty about the risk from BSE which is markedly different from the Government's assertion that there is no danger at all.

Concern focuses most on hamburgers and processed meat products, such as pies, beef soups, pâtés and stock cubes, in which cattle brain was a permitted ingredient until November, 1989, when it was banned. Brain from calves under six months old

can still be used. Since 1989 (February, 1990, in Scotland) abattoirs have been required to remove and destroy all brain, spinal cord, spleen, tonsils and intestines from cattle. These are thought to be capable of carrying BSE, though tests have so far detected infection only in the brain and spinal cord.

This week the Government tightened the regulations and ordered abattoirs to remove the whole backbone (apart from the tail). This was prompted by the discovery that some abattoirs were leaving parts of the spinal cord attached to the carcass.

The most acute period of exposure to potential infection was between 1986, when BSE was diagnosed in cattle, and the introduction of the offal ban at the end of 1989. Vast numbers of people could have eaten infected material in those years but it may take decades for BSE to show.

If BSE has passed to humans, epidemiologists would expect to see an increase in CJD, an incurable brain disease that has been known of since the 1920s. The number of deaths from CJD did rise in 1994 to 55, up from 42 in 1993 and slightly above the previous peak of 51 in 1992.

But most scientists agree that the increase was due to more accurate reporting of the disease rather than to a rise in its incidence. At less than one per million of population, CJD deaths in Britain are still in line with what is found in other countries with no BSE.



Jeff Almond, Professor of microbiology, University of Reading: I am still eating beef. I have never been a great eater of meat pies, sausages and other processed products, but that is out of preference. I still allow my children to eat beefburgers. Short of turning them into vegetarians I could not stop them, anyway. But we urgently need more research into the possibility of a link between CJD and BSE.



Helen Grant, retired neuro-pathologist: Ever since BSE surfaced I have advised against meat pies, stock cubes, consommé and pâté, which did contain brain and other cattle offal, at least until such material was banned in 1989. I used to take the view that beef, good mince and sausage meat was OK. Now the latest research suggests BSE is more virulent than scrapie in sheep. So I am advising my children not to eat any beef at all.



Professor Sir Richard Doll, epidemiologist, Oxford University: I still eat beef. I like it and I do not think there is any significant risk from BSE. I do eat rather less red meat than I used to but that is because of the link to cancer and heart disease and nothing to do with BSE. I have never eaten products such as meat pies. I am not worried about BSE. There is something worth looking at, but the risk is not established.



Colin Blakemore, Wayneville Professor of physiology, Oxford University: I stopped eating beef as soon as the first BSE scare was made public in 1986. I felt that the risk was too great. I was concerned that the Government was making scientific predictions that were not reasonable. The evidence that the disease affects humans seems to be accumulating. I fear that there is the possibility of an epidemic during the next ten years.



Roger Whitehead, director of the Dunn Nutrition Unit, Cambridge: I am still eating beef. Red meat contains iron, the most likely nutrient anyone would be deficient in. Deciding to stop eating it is a serious issue unless you take other steps. As for BSE, I have now got to dash off to college, and I stand a much better chance of dying on the way than I stand of getting BSE or some brain disorder because of eating meat.



Richard Lacey, Professor of medical microbiology at Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds: We stopped eating beef in our family in 1989. At that time there was no other explanation for the source of CJD and particularly worrying was that the incidence was going up. I was particularly concerned about my children who were 5 and 14, because the incubation period is several decades. I am even more worried now about BSE.



Gareth Roberts, neuro-anatomist with SmithKline Beecham: I am still eating beef providing it is anatomically recognisable. If it looks like beef I will eat it. I am eating fewer made-up products such as meat pies, sausages and beefburgers. This is in part due to BSE but also to greater concern generally about how food is produced, which goes back to the revelations about salmonella in chickens.



Thomas Stuttaford, the Times doctor: I am a pessimist and I have not eaten mince, sausages, hamburgers or anything else where I could not see what the meat looked like since the BSE scare started ten years ago. When I eat roast beef, I am careful not to eat the lymphatic glands, which sometimes show up as pale nodules between two groups of muscles. I still eat steak but not calf's liver or oxtail.



John Patison, dean of medical school, University College London. Chairman of Government's advisory committee on spongiform encephalopathy: BSE has not changed my eating habits. I eat beef and the occasional beefburger, as I always have done. We do not have the evidence to prove beyond doubt that there is no connection between BSE and CJD, but in my view the risk is small and entirely theoretical.



Stephen Dealler, consultant medical microbiologist: I stopped eating beef and all other beef products in 1988 as soon as I had read the literature on BSE. It has become clear since then that we have been eating meat from a large number of infected cows, perhaps as many as 1.5 million so far. There is still no evidence that BSE can transmit to humans, but until more research has been done, the risk of eating beef is too great.

## Leading cooks keep beef on menu

By ROBIN YOUNG

COOKERY writers see little need to modify their recipes or their eating habits in view of the BSE scare.

Frances Bissell of *The Times* said yesterday: "I still use beef recipes and am currently working on an ox tail recipe for the new year. But I do advise readers to buy organic beef if they can, or beef from high-quality producers. I think it is important to get to know your butcher and to ask where the meat has come from, how old the animal was, and whether it is from a beef herd. I think you get what you pay for. Cheap beef is likely to be old cow meat, and ready-made burgers and sausages could have anything in them. I tend not to give many offal recipes because I do not get a lot of response from readers, but I still cook offal myself. I love calf's liver."

Sophie Grigson, whose current Channel 4 series *Sophie's Meat Course* has included programmes devoted to beef



Grigson: concerned about infected meat



Bissell: advises use of organic beef

and offal, said: "I have not modified my recipes at all. The job of the media is to inform, not to make people paranoid." She added, however: "I am not satisfied that the Government is doing enough to keep infected meat out of the food chain. But we eat beef and liver perhaps twice a month in our house, and calf's liver as an

occasional treat. My offal programme included recipes for both ox tongue and marrow bones." The food writer Michael Raffael said: "I would not tell my children not to eat a hamburger. I am very suspicious of the food scare lobby, which seems to have some political axe to grind. Cows

are supposed to have caught BSE from sheep infected with scrapie. Why doesn't anyone make a fuss about eating lamb?"

Richard Sadler, chief meat buyer for the Waitrose supermarket chain, said: "BSE is not much associated with beef production. The main problem is in dairy herds. We do not use any cow beef or offal in our minced beef, sausages or burgers."

A spokesman for Sainsbury said: "We are very confident our controls exclude all banned material and our quality controllers take every precaution to ensure the quality and safety of what we sell."

A spokesman for McDonald's said: "All our burgers are made from lean flank and forequarter boneless joints. We have never used offal and never will. We have certainly not seen any drop in trade."

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**OTHER VIEWS**

John Collinge, neurologist and CJD researcher at St Mary's Hospital medical school, west London: If there is any risk it comes from infected offal and not from beef. I would not eat brain (from cattle). I am working on the assumption that all this offal no longer gets into the food chain, even from well animals. I hope that is true. Nothing is 100 per cent. With

that proviso I am happy to eat processed meat products such as meat pies.

Alan Hitchens, a London veterinary surgeon: I do not eat beef and have not done so for several years because one does not know if there is a real risk. My children do not eat beef either. It is not a big

issue and I do not think I am missing out on any nutrients.

Graham Medley, epidemiologist at Warwick University: I still eat beef, though I prefer to source it from abroad. I would rather my children did not eat beefburgers, but for general health reasons rather than because of BSE. The real danger was in the late 1980s, before the offal controls came into effect.

It may be years before we know whether anyone has been infected.

Francis Anthony, past president of the British Veterinary Association: I am still eating beef. I and my family do not often eat cheap meat pies, but that predates BSE. I now have grandchildren and I am not worried about them eating beefburgers.

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# THE SUNDAY TIMES

## The invisible child



Iona was the dream baby: blonde, blue-eyed and beautiful. Then she was diagnosed as blind and profoundly brain-damaged, one of the 6,100 "invisible children" born disabled in Britain each year. In a moving account in *The Sunday Times*, one parent describes the day-by-day struggle to come to terms with a personal tragedy: the shock, fear and bitterness, leavened with pride, love and unexpected joys. It is a story of heartbreak and hope that should be read by every parent in the land.

THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

# Unemployed must join 'workfare' or have benefits cut

By ALICE THOMSON AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

UP TO 6,000 long-term unemployed people will be made to join a £12 million workfare-style pilot scheme announced yesterday.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, made clear that those who have been out of work for more than two years will be expected to join the scheme or lose welfare benefits.

Six-month projects running in two high-unemployment areas from next April will offer people £10 a week on top of standard benefit if they accept work offered by training companies, charities and voluntary organisations.

John Major said the programme was an important part of the campaign against benefit dependence. It would offer "a lifeline" to the majority of long-term unemployed looking for work. "But those who refuse to take an offer of work experience will lose some or all of their benefit."

Labour seized on a sugges-

tion by Mrs Shephard that the scheme was aimed at the "recalcitrant few" who did not want to go back to work. Under the new Project Work Scheme, to go ahead in two areas to be announced before Christmas, people will be offered work including painting and decorating, construction, cleaning and gardening.

A pilot scheme has already been tried out in north Norfolk, where 100 opportunities were offered to jobless people who received £10 a week on top of their standard benefits.

Speaking at the Conservative Women's Conference in London, Mrs Shephard said: "Most people want to get back. But for the recalcitrant few who don't we are setting up two pilot schemes which require some activity, some effort in exchange for the benefit received. It's called paying for what you get — making some effort in return for the help given. It is a good Tory principle and I know it is one

that will meet with general approval."

The placements will last up to six months. They will consist of three months of training, learning to write out job applications, submitting CVs and getting back into the Labour market. Then there will be three months on work experience projects. "Often these work experience jobs lead on to job offers," Mrs Shephard said.

Those who refuse to take part or who drop out during the course will lose two weeks' benefit the first time round. The next time they will lose a month's benefit and a third offence could lead to total loss of benefit in a three-strike system.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said: "It offers no choice to the unemployed, while Labour is offering a real choice of work and education, with education and training opportunities for all."



Tony Blair receiving an honorary doctorate in law from the University of Northumbria yesterday. It also emerged that his vocals appear on a Gateshead school choir's charity Christmas record with other celebrities from the region

## Chancellor dismisses criticism of Budget

By ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

KENNETH CLARKE robustly defended his cautious Budget yesterday, telling Tory activists that there was no "mythical money tree" from which he could fund "unsustainable" tax cuts.

In his first speech since Tuesday's Budget, when he cut the basic rate of income tax by 1p, the Chancellor told the Conservative women's conference in Westminster: "My Budget did not set out to turn the opinion polls around in one day, one week, or even one month. It set out to deliver higher living standards, and that is exactly what it will do."

Many of his audience had been privately complaining that there was no point in fundraising and delivering party leaflets if the Chancellor was not going to give the voters what they wanted. Although publicly loyal, some are angry that the Government is not producing more populist measures to help their campaigns. They do not believe that Mr Clarke's £3 billion package of cuts and his trimming of the basic rate are enough. There were also calls from the floor for an urgent cut in interest rates.

But Mr Clarke told his critics: "This week I have been accused of the dreadful crime of honesty, responsibility and financial rectitude. The British people would not have been much impressed by tax cuts that were not affordable, or were branded as some kind of electoral bribe. As a Conservative Chancellor, I don't believe in some mythical money tree from which I can pick imaginary fivers and tenners."

Photograph, page 24

## Inspector of prisons promises army rigour

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE new Chief Inspector of Prisons began work yesterday promising to bring military-style discipline to his job. But General Sir David Ramsbotham, 61, side-stepped a question on whether he would be as tough as his predecessor, Judge Tumm, in criticising prisons and government ministers.

He said that Judge Tumm had brought his own inimitable style to the job. "Obviously I shall have to find my own way of doing it, which will be different because we are different."

Sir David, a former adjutant-general in the Army, is expected to make his first visit to a prison in England and Wales within the next few days. His previous experience of prison life comes from the army "glasshouse", the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, where the emphasis on discipline has impressed Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

He has also been to Crumlin Road jail in Belfast when he was commander of 39 Infantry Brigade in Belfast.

Among his qualifications for the job, he listed having worked in public service and as part of a team. "Being used to working in a disciplined environment and dealing with people is presumably what was wanted."

Sir David, educated at Haileybury College and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, retired from the Army two years ago. He has been appointed for an initial five years.

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Book and film deals will pay for flights

## Jailed Leeson's wife to visit him monthly

By DOMINIC KENNEDY  
AND ROBERT MILLER

LISA LEESON hopes to visit her husband Nick, the former Barings trader, every month while he is in prison in Singapore for cheating and deception, but has decided against moving there to be near him. She will remain at her parents' home in West Kingsdown, Kent, sleeping in the bedroom she had as a girl.

Mrs Leeson, 27, hopes to use the proceeds from her husband's book and film deals to pay for her flights to the Far East.

Mr Leeson sold the English language rights to his memoirs for £450,000 at the Frankfurt Book Fair while he was in a nearby prison. He was allowed to meet Edward Whitley, a journalist and former merchant banker, in the German jail to share his secrets for the biography *Rogue Trader*, to be published within months.

Hugh Grant, the British actor, has expressed interest in playing Leeson in a screen version of the Barings collapse. His agent has also discussed the project, which is still in embryo form.

Sir David Frost, who is handling the rights, predicted that the jailed trader, who has admitted cheating Barings' auditors and deception, would be unlikely to make more than a five-figure sum from any film deal. Before Leeson or his wife see any of this, they will have to settle their enormous legal debts.

Stephen Pollard, Leeson's British solicitor and a partner in Kingsley Napley, the leading London criminal law practice, charges £200 an hour. Leeson has engaged John Koh as counsel in Singapore, while in Germany, his aborted fight against extradition was led by



Leeson: planning to live at her parents' home

Eberhard Kempf, who specialises in human rights law. Apart from their legal work, Mr Leeson must find money to pay for his lawyers' many flights between London, Frankfurt and Singapore, and their accommodation in comfortable hotels.

Before sentencing, Leeson's counsel had told the court in mitigation: "Around the time of the offences, our client and his wife faced an emotionally traumatic event. His wife suffered a miscarriage at the end of January 1995. They had for some time been keen to start a family and to return to England."

Mrs Leeson, who left Singapore before sentencing, spent many of the final hours of uncertainty telephoning Patsy Sims, her mother. Her father Alex said at their home yesterday: "She is under a lot of stress. We are trying not to think about how long Nick is going to be jailed."

"We will be glad to see this all over and done with so we can return to some sort of normal life. Lisa seems OK in general. She is very strong

and will see her way through this. I guess Nick and Lisa will want to try to start a family at some stage but that appears to be a long way off yet."

A friend of Mrs Leeson's said: "She will soon be coming back to England to get on with her life, which is working in a tea shop in Maidstone and visiting Nick, she hopes, once a month."

"The vast bulk of what he is going to make is going to go to pay legal bills. I don't think Lisa will be taking a suite at the Dorchester or dancing till dawn. She is not that type of girl. She intends to live here, close to her family. There is no point in sitting outside the gates of Changi if you are only allowed in once a month."

Mrs Leeson is considering several offers of jobs which involve travelling to Singapore but has put her banking career on hold. "She has to have four or five days off every month to go to see her husband, so it's hard to continue in that type of work," the friend said.



Alan Davies, in the running to be named Britain's top stand-up comedian tonight

## Rising comedian rivals big stars

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A RISING comedian who has been attracting audiences on the club circuit has been shortlisted for the award of "Britain's top stand-up comedian", alongside two of the country's most established names, Bob Monkhouse and Jo Brand.

The humour of Alan Davies, 29, is observational and anecdotal, covering anything from his health to his sister's alsatian. "Surreal exaggerations and spot-on delivery hit the mark every time", one critic remarked. "Simply very, very funny," said another.

The British Comedy Awards are screened live tonight by London Weekend Television.

Simon Fanshawe, the broadcaster and comedian, said of Davies yesterday: "He has a comic gift. He can make anything funny. His performances are an understatement. He is so blokish, the chap next door, you get seduced. You suddenly realise you're howling with laughter."

William Burdett-Coutts, director of the London Comedy Festival at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, in which Davies appears this month,

called him "a face to watch". Michael Hurll, the light entertainment producer, noted that apart from being a "wonderful comedian", Davies was "one of the few circuit comedians who has a completely clean act".

Seamus Cassidy, commissioning editor of light entertainment for Channel 4, noted that audiences warmed to Davies, a man who likens the start of his act to the rest of us beginning a day's work — tidying up, getting a cup of tea. "No one goes to work and just begins," Davies tells his audience. Mr Cassidy has noted how they give him the time to do that. "You feel instantly that you want to like him."

Davies, who grew up in Essex and graduated in drama from Kent University in 1988, explained that his performances were largely improvised, the material mostly autobiographical. He starts with something that happened to him, or the germ of an idea, and lets his imagination run wild. He keeps off politics: "I'd be treading on others' toes: there's no one talking about my life."

## Gulf War hero escapes prison after hijack

By ANDREW PIERCE

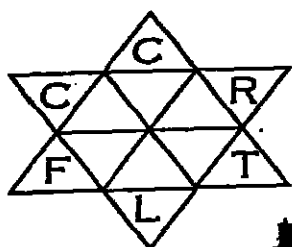
A SOLDIER who was decorated in the Gulf War escaped jail yesterday when a judge accepted that combat stress had contributed to his role in a lorry hijack. Michael Driscoll, who was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal, admitted helping to steal a £54,000 lorry and three charges of receiving stolen goods.

Cambridge Crown Court was told that Driscoll was still suffering from "Gulf War syndrome" five years after hostilities ceased. Judge Halnan said: "I am satisfied that your military service and the suffering you received had

an effect on the commission of these offences." Driscoll, 39, of Guyhirn, Cambridgeshire, who was a member of the Royal Corps of Transport for 18 years, was given three six-month jail sentences which were suspended for two years.

In February 1991 he was part of an ambulance convoy that drove into an Iraqi minefield after getting lost in a sandstorm. Several mines exploded but despite suffering a shrapnel wound in the thigh Driscoll tended his wounded colleagues and organised a rescue airlift. He received psychiatric care for a year afterwards.

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# Heseltine settles down to loyalty and the last post

Michael Heseltine explains the background to his summer success in an interview with Peter Riddell and Philip Webster

Michael Heseltine at last appears at ease with himself, and with his role as the second most powerful man in the Government. Sincere in his tributes to John Major, he accepts that being Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State is likely to be his last ministerial post. But, looking fit and relaxed, he still has ambitions. He intends to stand at the next election, and notes that he has served in each of his main Cabinet posts for three years.

He was in a reflective mood as he talked yesterday morning in his specially redesigned room in the Cabinet Office, which is not, as often described, like a tennis court but is more akin to the living-room of a stately home. It is decorated with 18th-century portraits and landscapes from the Government Art Collection selected by his wife Anne, including a picture of the first Baron Guilford, "a reformer of abuses". The famed computer link to the Internet sits on a table outside.

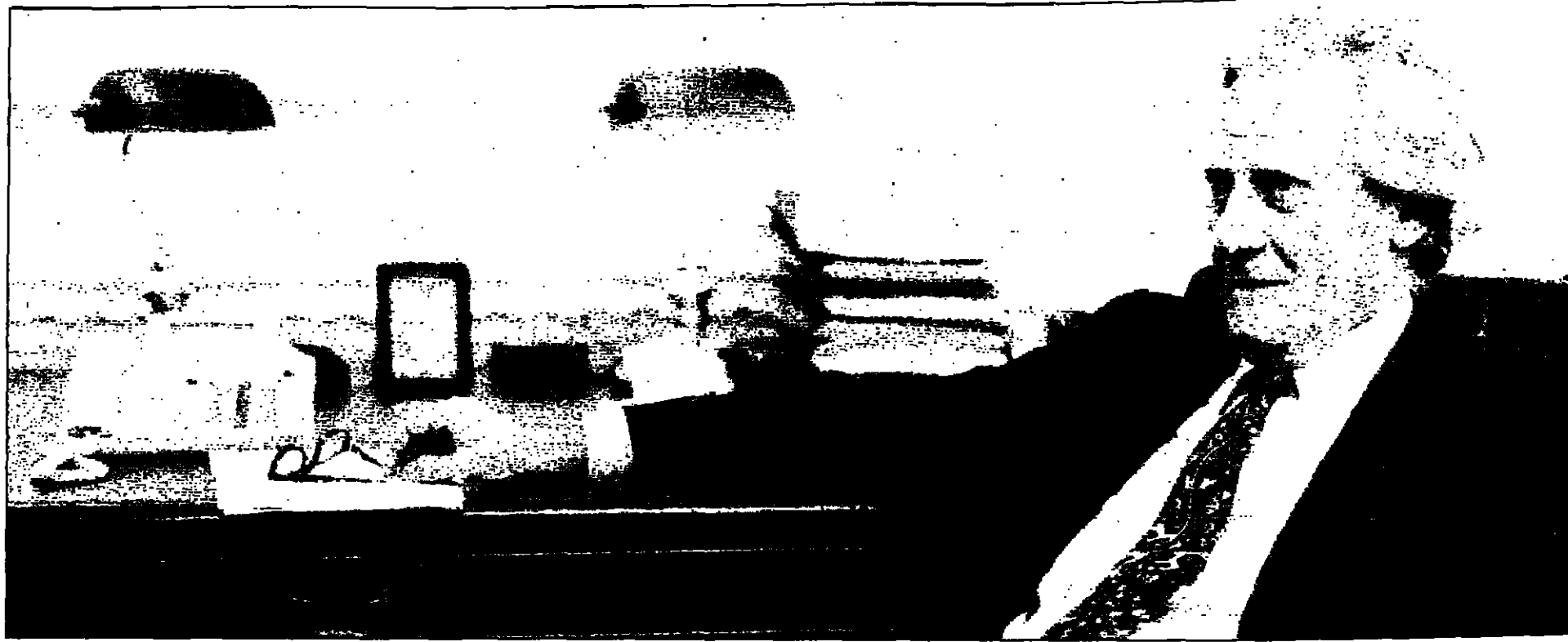
Mr Heseltine does everything he can to tie himself to the Prime Minister, rebutting any attempts to prise them apart. He dismisses suggestions that he was ever offered the Chancellorship as "an absolute fantasy", and denies that he had any understanding that Mr Major would step down next spring if Tory fortunes had not improved by then.

He discloses that he had three conversations with Mr Major about his new role before and during the leadership battle in the summer. About three weeks before the contest, Mr Heseltine had seen the Prime Minister in the Commons about some problem after a late vote. After this had been quickly sorted out, Mr Major asked him to stay behind.

"In the substance of it all the idea that I might play a more central role in Government did come up. There was no agreement. It came up as a thought to be discussed. It was left on the table, so to speak."

Although he does not keep a diary, he thinks that titles were probably discussed. "I think it was quite obvious that I was going to become his number two. That is basically what we were talking about."

"Then nothing happened for a period, until we had another



Michael Heseltine in his office yesterday. He accepts that his role is an unusual one: "My job is an extension of the Prime Minister's job. That is where my authority lies"

conversation. I think the day, or perhaps two days, before he announced he was going to offer himself for election. He said that he did not want to move forward with this particular idea because he had got another thought that had been in his mind for some time, that was to lance the boil. He asked my view. I said, after a moment's reflection, that I thought it was a very sensible thing to do. That was it.

"The next conversation took place on the morning of polling. He said the polls are open, we cannot predict the result but in the event that it goes my way I would like to go ahead with the idea we discussed. That conversation went on for three quarters of an hour to an hour. We discussed a lot of things — policies, people. Then I went off to see Robin Butler [the Cabinet Secretary]."

Seen from another angle, Mr Major looks politically astute in binding in his main

rival at an early stage. Mr Heseltine brushes aside "such a Machiavellian interpretation". He says there was no possibility of him entering the race. "It never occurred to me as an option. I had no cause. If I say to John Major's face I am not going to be involved in this process, I am not the sort of person who then goes round the Commons saying, 'I may have said this to the Prime Minister but don't take a bit of notice.' I would not do it."

Mr Heseltine goes out of his way to praise the Prime Minister's qualities, describing him as "immensely painstaking, totally unwilling to take quick decisions without all the information and evidence he thinks is necessary. He is extraordinarily patient in listening to and absorbing the various strands of advice he is getting."

He is then very meticulous in explaining to those who are not going to win why they are not going to win, why he has come to a conclusion different to the one they wanted. The people-management that is involved in his decision-making is one of his great strengths; he also uses it in his relationships with his European colleagues. He understands their difficulties and the pressures and disciplines they are under."

Mr Major behaves in this way not solely because of the Government's thin majority, but because that is the sort of man he is.

The Prime Minister has managed all the crises, he

says, because of "an inner reserve, a will and strength, which perhaps is more apparent to those who work closely with him than it is to the more superficial observer."

Mr Heseltine emphasises the importance of his relationship with Mr Major in his current role. "If I was advising the Prime Minister as to whether to create a deputy I would say, unless you have a very good personal relationship and you have absolute trust, don't do it. Otherwise, you will be prised apart by the pressures of politics and the scrutiny of the media. There is no way that will happen with us. That is the strength of the

position. If there was any question about that, my position would be gravely weakened, and probably fatally damaged. I am sure the Prime Minister must have thought of that. It is a great compliment to me that he came to the decision he did."

He accepts that the role of intermediary is "very difficult in our constitution. My job is an extension of his job. That is where my authority lies. If it was thought I was speaking a different language from the Prime Minister, I would rapidly cease to get decisions taken at Cabinet committees."

Discussing his new role, Mr Heseltine emphasised the im-

portance of harmonious relations with Cabinet colleagues in charge of departments. "They are not people who get ordered around, they are not people who are going to see their ambitions thwarted or their reputations undermined in doing this job. You have to work with the grain of colleagues' interests and ambitions. Fortunately, I have had a lot of experience of doing this with the competitiveness agenda, which is a totally trans-governmental activity."

Looking ahead, he says "the overarching vision" of the Government is to make this country "the enterprise centre of Europe", a refrain under-

lined by Kenneth Clarke in his Budget speech.

Mr Heseltine presents himself as a politician whose views have not really changed since he was at Oxford 40 years ago, stretching through nearly 30 years in government and service under three Prime Ministers. He decries talk of Left versus Right distinctions, arguing that he could be regarded as right-wing in favouring privatisation, and interventionist — "before breakfast, lunch and dinner" — in supporting active public partnerships with the private sector in, for example, urban renewal. He sees his current role of co-ordinating industrial poli-

cy, including the competitiveness unit he brought over from the Department of Trade and Industry, as "implementing much of the agenda in *Where There's A Will*, the book he wrote in his backbench years."

Mr Heseltine is at his most coy about Europe, declining to discuss "hypothetical questions" on whether the Prime Minister might promise at the

6 It never occurred to me to enter the leadership election. I had no cause ?

next election to rule out Britain joining a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament. "These things will be discussed by the Prime Minister and his colleagues. I am not in the business of anticipating collective decisions."

His warmth for Mr Major is in notable contrast to his coolness on Margaret Thatcher. The memories of his resignation from the Cabinet over the Westland affair ten years ago next month evidently still run deep. "It was absolutely ridiculous to put me in a position where I had to resign."

Although surprised he got as much support as he did in the first round of the leadership election in November 1990, he believes he would have won the second ballot if Baroness Thatcher had not stood down. Mr Heseltine agrees she was so opposed to him that she was willing to resign rather than let him win.

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## Archbishop denies that reforms will put power in the hands of the few

# Change in Church management endorsed by Carey

**BY RUTH GLEDHILL**  
**RELIGION CORRESPONDENT**

**THE** Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday endorsed the proposed reorganisation of the Church of England's management structure as a means of strengthening the Church's mission.

Dr George Carey countered suggestions that the reforms would lead to power being concentrated in the hands of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, emphasising that leadership must not be confused with power.

In his presidential address to the General Synod, Dr Carey argued that authority was "a necessary element in any organisation that has a common mission". He described his frustration at the "current incoherence" of the managerial structure.

The synod this week endorsed a report that said change was needed; but many members have privately expressed fears that the reforms, the most radical for centuries, will lead to a managerial mentality in the Church.

Dr Carey won sustained applause for his address on the last day of the synod. "Leadership is service," he said. Our model must be that of our Lord in his sacrificial

The synod voted yesterday to examine ways of reforming the clergy property freehold, but insisted that job security be maintained. However, several members of the synod described the frustration felt by congregations unable to have unsuitable priests removed. Nigel Holmes, of Carlisle, said: "The clergy must be accountable. All too often they are not." He compared some clergy to farmers with set-aside, saying: "The money flows in to pay the stipend of the disutilised and inadequate."

and self-giving work." Talk about managerialism was unhelpful. "If a person cannot manage then he or she is not well equipped to be an effective priest or bishop. But, of course, being a manager is but a small part of being a leader in the Church. If it is not shaped and formed by spiritual vision it will be directionless."

Under the proposals of the Turnbull report, which will be debated again next February, Dr Carey will become chairman of a new national council

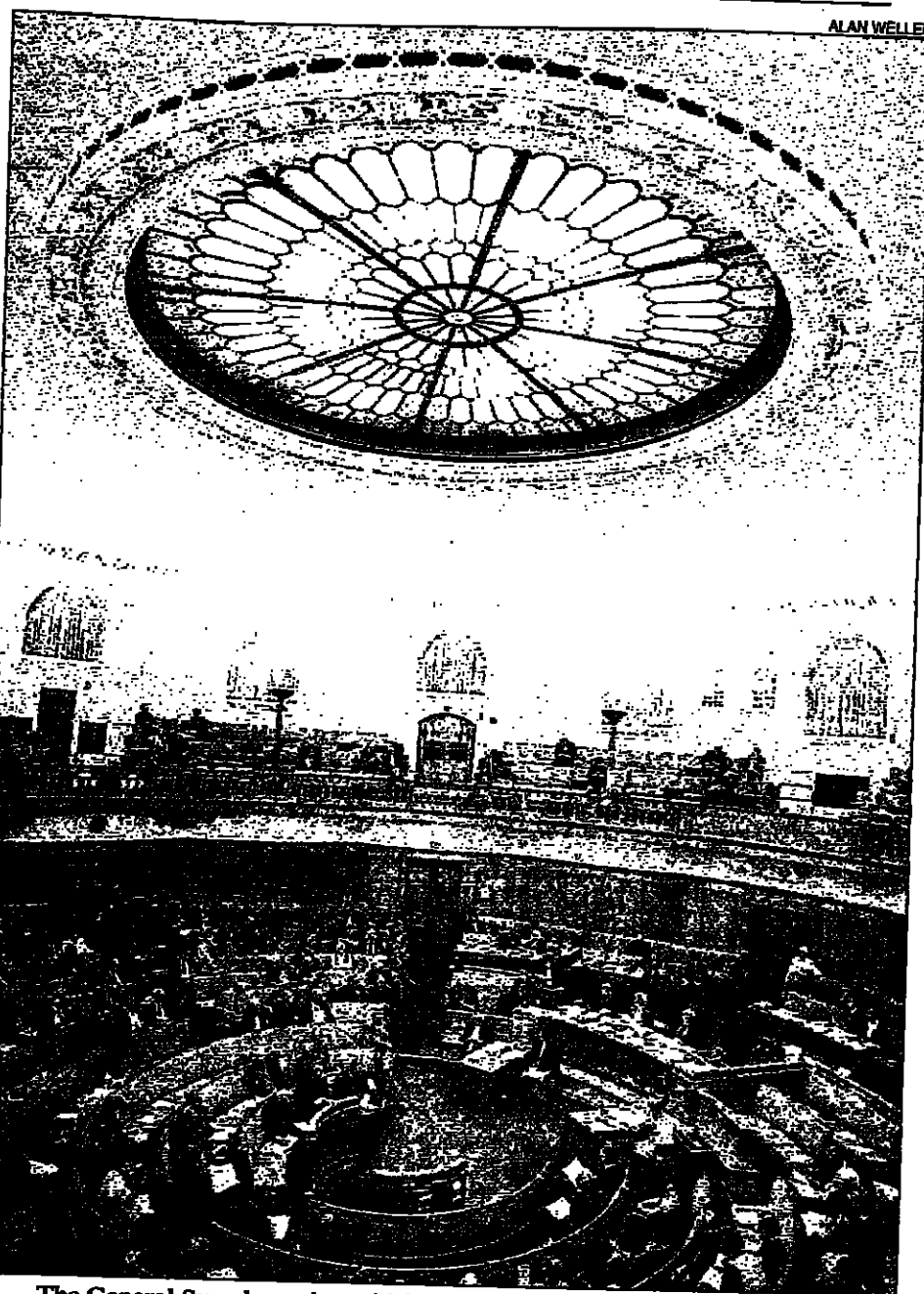
intended to give the Church a new focus for leadership. Dr David Hope, the new Archbishop of York, will become vice-chairman.

Dr. Carey, who is expected to act and speak as the leader of the Church of England but who has little effective power outside his own diocese, said part of his burden was "the amount of time I have to spend enduring frustration. This may be good for the soul but it is not to the benefit of the Church." He said he longed for the day when his time could be used more productively.

Urging for the Church to question anything that brought authority into contempt, he said: "Christian authority does not stem from autocratic demands for obedience, but from allegiance to one another in the body of Christ."

Dr Carey said that although some people had left the Church, there had not been the mass exodus over the ordination of women to the priesthood that some had predicted. Further, numbers of people attending church had held up and giving had risen well above inflation.

**At Your Service,  
Weekend, page 3**



**The General Synod meeting which this week supported a call for change**

**Credo**  
**Cry from the wilderness commands our attention**

**Brian Mountford**


**T**omorrow is Advent Sunday, which sees the first carol services, of the year. Not Christmas, but Advent — the Church's four weeks of preparation for the Nativity of Christ. Evocatively candle-lit, with much like snow crystals, penitential and expectant in tone, the service proclaims the message of the prophets that God will visit and redeem his people.

A voice is crying in the wilderness, says Isaiah. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord". But why in the wilderness? Basically, because the Israelite experience of wandering in the wilderness between Egypt

is expressed in Edward Munch's famous picture, *The Scream*. He said that when he painted it he "sensed a scream passing through nature" which might be a profound way of describing what lies behind the frightening contemporary images that inhabit our screens: scorching modern weaponry, death by starvation, the barren wastes of drug addiction. What kind of human response can there be? Where is redemption now? The religious quest is often shocked into existence by such apocalyptic images and it is no surprise, therefore, that the season of



and the Promised Land is the root of Jewish spirituality. Even when settled in Canaan the Israelite is instructed never to forget his origins. The farmer must bring the first fruits of his crop to the priest and recite the words: "My ancestor



Advent is observed not only as a preparation for Christmas, but for the Second Coming of Christ with its associated themes of death, judgment, heaven, and hell. But vulnerability on its own cannot create awe and wonder.

**"My ancestor  
was a wandering Aramaean  
and a homeless refugee . . .**

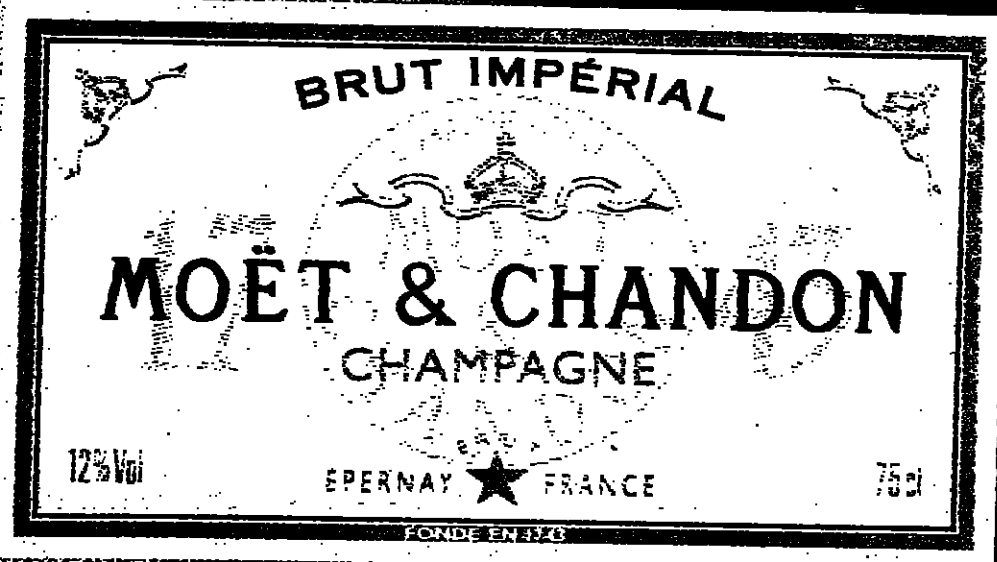
Later, when corruption in the national life reached its height, the protesting voices of Elijah and Amos, who spoke for Yahweh, were voices which came from the wilderness. It doesn't take much to see how this greater theme is reflected in the Christian story. The infant Christ will soon be visited by shepherds, the inheritors of the nomadic tradition. John the Baptist emerges from the wilderness in a coat of camel's hair and Jesus himself prepares for his ministry by retreating to the wilderness.

The Advent Service is always packed with regulars and strangers. What draws them? The words and music seem to awaken a sense of awe at the mystery of God. It is not simply spiritual excitement, but a recognition of human vulnerability, something picked up by the image of a voice in the wilderness, isolation and separation. In a very intense way this

The cry is not merely one of pain, but of prophetic protest and anger at injustice and moral indifference. Perhaps, in this instinctive experience, people begin to see the point of Christianity's central paradox, that you must lose your life to save it. The messiah was expected to be a king, but Jesus had more in common with Isaiah's suffering servant.

**T**hat is why he was not quickly recognised: he simply was not the type. When he emerged from the wilderness, instead of rallying the troops, he preached good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and liberty to the oppressed. Perhaps this is the secret Advent ingredient: people see God at the centre of their own vulnerability, and personal vulnerability at the heart of God.

*The Rev Brian Mountford is vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford.*



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## Suburban whites retreat behind anti-crime walls

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO predominantly white areas in Johannesburg are to close off streets with crash barriers and bollards as an emergency anti-crime measure, following permission from the municipal authorities, and others want to follow suit.

Residents in Hurlingham Manor voted to build a wall right round their suburb, with nearly half the money for the project raised on the spot by angry householders who point to the 96 car hijackings their area has suffered so far this year. Two other suburbs have applied for similar permission, while the new suburb of Fourways Garden is a fortress settlement, walled off and patrolled night and day by armed private guards.

In contemporary South Africa, such measures evoke not so much the images of the Berlin Wall as the spectre of a re-segregation of society. Whites are walling themselves off, literally, from the flood of poor blacks pouring into the cities. The residents argue that many black servants and a growing elite of black, middle-class residents live within their walls and behind their roadblocks, and there is no hint of dissent from these quarters.

Undoubtedly, it is the rise of carjacking which has prompted these measures. The most common demand is for roadblocks between white suburbs and black townships to pre-

vent such crimes. Residents are able to point to a decline in the incidence of car theft once a roadblock goes up.

So far the "white walls" are confined to Johannesburg, but a group housing scheme in Cape Town has applied for permission to wall itself off, and walled retirement villages are already mushrooming in the Cape.

The Government has been besieged by demands to take tougher measures against crime, which threatens to undermine South Africa's tourist industry, its hopes of foreign investment and its prospect of hosting the 2004 Olympics. But it is afraid of using the iron fist against the predominantly black criminal classes, and has responded with little more than rhetoric. Not surprisingly, the decision earlier this year of the Constitutional Court, clearly prompted by the Government, to abolish the death penalty is not popular. This is so even among blacks, who have long assumed that the death sentence was something carried out by whites against blacks.

To the Government's embarrassment, the latest polls show that 69 per cent of blacks want to see the death penalty restored, as do 85 per cent of Coloureds, 91 per cent of whites and 92 per cent of Indians. Under such pressure, Gabriel "Tokyo" Sexwale, the populist ANC Premier of Gauteng, called for a referen-

dum on the restoration of hanging, only to backtrack under furious ANC pressure. For the angry whites of Hurlingham Manor, this is just a sideshow; they already live behind roadblocks and soon will have their own battlements.

However, the pressures which have produced this crisis are bound to increase as the speed of urbanisation gathers pace. South Africa's liberation has seen a veritable flood of immigrants moving southwards into the country, and the number of illegal immigrants is now reckoned as anywhere between two and eight million.

Moreover, many rural black South Africans, believing that black rule will open new opportunities in the formerly "white cities" have begun to converge on them in greater numbers than ever.

This process is hastened by two trade union initiatives. The miners' union has successfully lobbied for permanent residency for their thousands of Lesotho members; and the institution of centralised pay bargaining has equalised wages, with the result that many industries in the former "Bantustans" are closing down; their sole advantage was that labour cost so much less in their rural backwaters than in the big cities. With wages now equalised, they, too, have joined the urban flood.



Tamil refugees from Jaffna arrive by bus in Vavuniya, a government-held frontline town

## Tamil guerrillas poised to attack main army base

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BATTICALOA

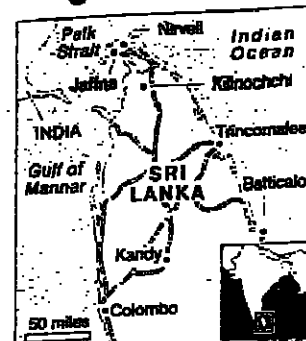
THE main Sri Lankan army base in Batticaloa is awaiting attack from the Tamil Tigers. The epicentre of the civil war is moving towards the eastern Tamil town: the rebels are just a few miles away and gaining rapidly in strength.

Military intelligence is painfully aware that nothing can prevent the inevitable assault. In the past month the Tigers have been trying to disrupt the local administration: a favourite tactic is to attach bombs with timing devices to electricity transformers. About 40 have been blown up. Each costs 600,000 rupees (£7,500) to replace.

The Tigers are moving freely through the countryside, unfettered by troops too thin on the ground to challenge them. The arrival a month ago of Kari Kalan, deputy head of the Tigers' political wing, from his former base in Jaffna, is a sign of the priority being attached to the region. He is based five miles from Batticaloa.

He presents a dilemma: the military knows exactly where he is, in a house in a residential street, guarded by two young Tigers with cyanide capsules hanging around their necks to avoid capture. "Sodium cyanide kills in 11 seconds," one says. "Potassium cyanide kills in three."

To attack Kari Kalan would mean civilian casualties. "Within two or three hours the Tigers would have 800 men on the spot," a senior military source said. "It would be a fierce battle with heavy loss of



life. That is why we're leaving him alone."

He added that the army believed the Tigers would in due course try to capture Batticaloa, population 80,000, which they held for two weeks in 1990. "We have information that a couple of top military leaders have come down from Jaffna. Their aim is to create a new base in the east. We are confident of holding the town but the Tigers can cause enormous disruption by hitting soft targets."

Army intelligence calculates that the number of Tigers around Batticaloa has quadrupled in recent weeks to 1,200. The military, overstretched by its battle for Jaffna City in the north, cannot spare more men. The Government, desperate for recruits, has declared an amnesty for 20,000 deserters if they return to service for one year. Many are responding.

The fall of Jaffna City came a step closer last night as troops inched towards the town centre. The house where Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tigers' leader, held his "last supper" with suicide squads before a mission, has been captured.

## Russia's sex revolution boosts Aids virus

BY MICHAEL DYNES

RUSSIA'S post-Communist sexual revolution has led to a steep rise in the number of people infected with the HIV virus, according to a report published yesterday.

Although official statistics show that only 1,000 of Russia's 180 million people have been infected with the virus, which causes Aids, the figure is near 20,000 and accelerating rapidly, the British Charities Aid Foundation report says.

The former Soviet Union remained relatively isolated from the worldwide spread of Aids in the early 1980s, due to

its isolation and puritanical standards of sexual behaviour. Moreover, under communism, diseases such as Aids had little chance to spread. People with venereal diseases or tuberculosis, for example, were quarantined, and a system of contact tracing was enforced with threats of imprisonment, the report said.

Perestroika and glasnost helped to remove the barriers. In addition, the sexual revolution which has taken place, combined with the weakening of the health system, has left Russia confronting the early stages of what could become an epidemic, the report said.

The strictness of the Soviet system also

contributed to the understatement of the extent of the problem. Because people mistrusted official medical services, they tended to hide and to attempt to solve medical conditions themselves. When the decision was taken in the late 1980s to tell the public about Aids, it was merely seen as a sign that the capitalist West was disintegrating.

□ Moscow: Arkadi Yesinsky, head of the State Aids Inspectorate, said Russia would press ahead with measures to stop foreigners bringing Aids into the country and would enforce a law passed last year requiring long-term visitors to prove they did not have the HIV virus. (Reuters)

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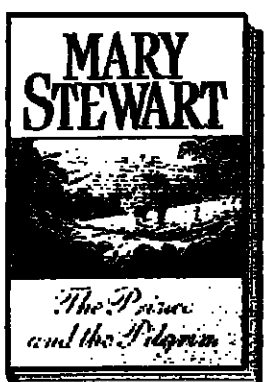
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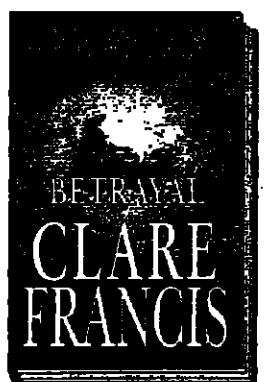
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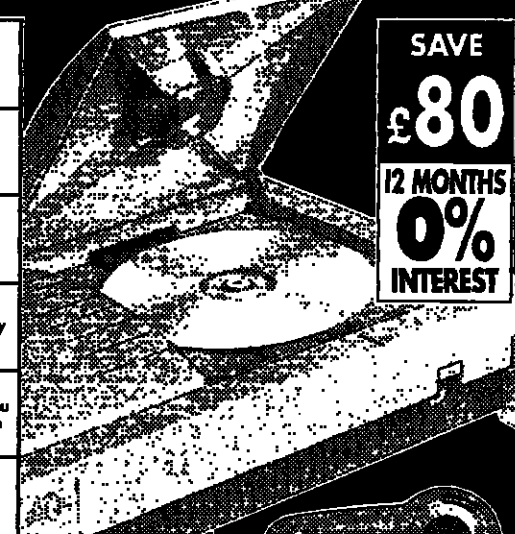
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# First Lady faces fresh Whitewater questions

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON was once more embroiled in Whitewater yesterday, after a Senate panel submitted a series of questions to the First Lady about a telephone call she is believed to have made on the night her friend and senior White House aide Vincent Foster died in July 1993.

The ten-minute call from her mother's house in Little Rock, Arkansas, was routed to a telephone number in Washington that has since been disconnected. Bell Atlantic, the communications company, has said a search of billing and service records has failed to determine where or to whom the number, 202-628-7087, was assigned.

The call was apparently made almost four hours after Foster, the deputy counsel, was found dead from a bullet wound at Fort Marcy Park outside Washington on July 20, 1993, and went to an auxiliary telephone used to transfer calls without keeping a record.

The Administration has always said Foster committed suicide and there was no link between his death and the failed Whitewater land deal in Arkansas. But numerous theories — from murder to blackmail by Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency — persist.

In an unprecedented demand, the Senate Whitewater committee agreed to submit four questions to Mrs Clinton, requiring her to say whether she made the call, who was called, and who else had access to the number. If the President's wife was not responsible, the panel wants to know who was. Mrs Clinton is

being asked to answer "under oath and to the best of your recollection". Four other calls were made from Dorothy Rodham's house that night, including one to Margaret Williams, the First Lady's chief of staff, another to her long-time friend, Susan Thomases, and two others, to a "friend" and "family".

In recent weeks Senator Alphonse D'Amato, the New York Republican and chairman of the special committee, had said he did not wish to appear before the hearings, but yesterday he said the decision about written questions had been made after the panel had "exhausted all means" to discover the identity of the number.

Although the phone call was discussed only briefly, the committee is also increasing its scrutiny of Mrs Clinton and the involvement of her Arkansas law firm in the failure of a savings and loan association which cost the American taxpayer more than \$60 million (£39 million).

Mr D'Amato said there had been a complete breakdown on the part of witnesses to remember events concerning the government investigation of Madison Guaranty and the Rose law firm. He said Administration officials were engaged in a "pattern of activity to suppress and keep facts from coming forward".

At issue is whether any of the three White House women, including Mrs Clinton, tried to deny access to the Whitewater records in the deputy counsel's office after his death.

## America's skyscrapers are past their peak

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S love affair with the skyscraper may be over. Figures show a dramatic slump in construction of high-rise buildings in the country.

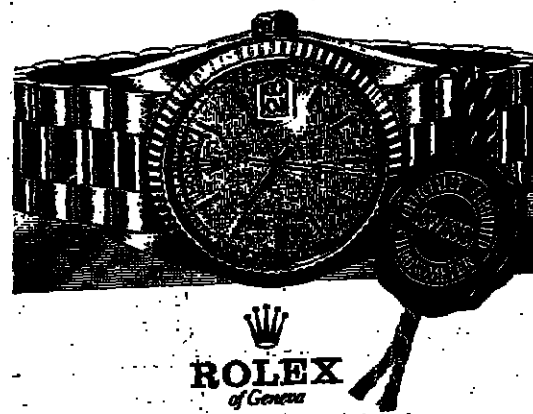
The totem of Western capitalism and fearless enterprise seems to have been stolen by the Orient, with skyscraper development in the Far East increasing.

Only ten buildings of more than 20 storeys are under construction in the whole of the United States, which in 1985 possessed the world's ten

loftiest buildings. It now seems that by the new millennium, six of the world's tallest blocks will be in Southeast Asia, with the world's tallest building likely to be the twin Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Shifting work habits and economic migration have left many buildings with space to let. Some people blame the decline on "telecommuting" — the trend of people to work from home. Many modern corporations also prefer to have headquarters in the suburbs, which tend to be safer and prettier.

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An artist's impression of the Galileo spacecraft probe, superimposed on the planet Jupiter, where it is due to arrive on Thursday, parachuting through

28,000mph winds after a six-year and 2.3 billion-mile journey. The project is intended to provide clues to the creation of the solar system but its

success is still far from certain (Tom Rhodes writes). The main antenna will not unfurl and, until two days ago, the tape recorder was jammed.

## Mexican officials uncover trail of Salinas riches

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

MEXICAN officials investigating the financial dealings of the family of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the former President, say that they have found "the tip of the iceberg" of a staggering fortune.

Daily revelations about the riches of the former President, his brother Raúl, and sister Adriana could not come at a worse time for the Government. Mexico is suffering its worst economic crisis in recent history for which many blame Señor Salinas, who left office a year ago.

The latest scandal erupted last week when Raúl's wife was arrested in Switzerland for trying to withdraw almost £56 million from a bank. Swiss officials say the accounts were registered to Raúl Salinas under a false name and that the money may be linked to drugs. Investigators have since uncovered 50 similar secret accounts in Britain, Germany and Latin America, as well as large property holdings in Mexico.

There are "clear signs of enrichment that do not corre-

spond to declared income and which must be explained", Norma Samaniego, Mexico's Comptroller, said.

Adriana Salinas is also under investigation over a credit union swindle involving fraudulent loans worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Money was funneled from the credit union to phantom companies allegedly controlled by Adriana Salinas.

Carlos Salinas released a statement on Sunday claiming that he knew nothing about the millions his brother had stashed away. Publicly humiliated, the former President, who is believed to have a £3.2 billion fortune, left the country earlier this year and is believed to be living in Montreal. Many demand that he be forced to give evidence as part of a public inquiry into the killings and corruption during his regime.

Raúl, who was a key figure in his brother's administration, is currently in jail, accused of masterminding the murder of a senior politician last year.

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# Peking is rebuked over 'tyrant' insult to Patten

By JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND DAVID WATTS

THE Foreign Office yesterday summoned the Chinese chargé d'affaires to express British concern at "interference" in Hong Kong after a Peking official accused Chris Patten, the Governor, of wasting money and insulting him.

The official, Chen Zuofu, a diplomat with the Joint Liaison Committee in Peking, said the Governor was spending extravagantly on welfare. It was like driving an expensive car recklessly, Mr Chen said. He also accused Mr Patten of being "a big tyrant".

Wang Qiliang, the chargé, was told that such "personal abuse" was unacceptable to the Government.

The summoning of Mr Wang is merely the latest indication of tension between Britain and China over Hong Kong. This has not been significantly reduced by a relatively warm meeting of Chinese and Hong Kong civil servants on Thursday.

The Governor responded that Hong Kong could well afford its welfare programme, and noted Hong Kong's drivers had just been rated the best

in the world. This was a lightly-coded reference to the US-based Heritage Foundation's recent naming of Hong Kong as the most economically free nation in the world. China ranked as No. 122.

Mr Chen then reverted to the Chinese practice of criticising individuals when dealing with an intractable problem. He called Mr Patten a "big tyrant", like a man reckless with wine, who would not qualify for a Hong Kong



Patten: accused of wasting money

driver's licence after 1997. When K.C. Kuong, Hong Kong's Treasury Secretary, remonstrated that such personal attacks were inappropriate, Mr Chen remarked that he understood Mr Kuong's "position" as a civil servant.

These latest exchanges came on the top of two months of deepening bitterness. Peking has again promised to abolish Hong Kong's Legislative Council in 1997, disavowed the Bill of Rights and embarrassed Sir S.Y. Chung, one of its close allies in the colony. Peking has also outlined a plan for setting up a Chinese-backed parallel government here, six months before the handover on July 1, 1997. A Peking official here has warned Hong Kong journalists to "love China".

Peking is making clear to the colony that Mr Patten is beyond the pale and that except for detailed negotiating points, such as the readjustment of colonial laws to post-1997 conditions, China is already the master.

This attitude has been plain since the elections in September

when, for the first time, the Legislative Council was wholly elected, in accordance with the Patten reforms. The elections were a triumph for the democratic forces and a failure for some of Peking's favourites. Peking's rage at its embarrassment is reflected in its now almost-daily savaging of Mr Patten and his policies.

The anger is heightened because Peking cannot influence today's elections in Taiwan, despite its threats and military manoeuvres this week. A Peking resident said: "They're furious with the woman they can't have, so they're taking it out on the woman they can."

For Mr Patten, denunciation is nothing new: for the first two years of his appointment he was excoriated as a "whore", "serpent", and "disgraced for a thousand years".

Taipei: Taiwan police averted an attempt to bomb President Lee Teng-hui's residence on the eve of today's election. A man was arrested after trying to drive a lorry carrying 132 lb of gunpowder into the residence. (Reuters)



President Castro of Cuba braves icy weather at the Great Wall of China yesterday on his first visit to the country. He had to be supported by guards at the wall

## Zhirinovskiy fails to woo pit town in Siberia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN KEMEROVO, RUSSIA

WHEN Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's private plane landed on the snow-covered runway of this Siberian town, the Russian ultra-nationalist leader expected below zero temperatures but a warm welcome from the restive voters of the coal-mining community.

Fed up with low—and often late—wages, rising crime and threatened pit closures, residents of the Kuzbass mining region should have been ripe for the well-rehearsed mix of populist slogans and angry outbursts that have marked Mr Zhirinovskiy's energetic campaign.

For the head of the Liberal Democratic Party, as his neo-Fascist movement is known, his Siberian tour received a cool reception in this constituency, regarded by pundits as an electoral weather-vane for the whole of Russia.

"All the main politicians come here because you cannot afford to ignore this region," said Yuri Dyakonov, the deputy editor of the local daily Kuzbass, who reeled off the names of leading politicians who had campaigned in Kemerovo with two weeks to go before election day. "No one in Moscow forgets 1991, when our miners came out on strike and were decisive in removing Gorbachev and bringing Yeltsin to power."

With this image in mind, Mr Zhirinovskiy hoped to rally the public again, using the same tactics which won him nearly a third of the electorate's support here at the last parliamentary polls. In a 45-minute television broadcast paid for by his party, he ranted against the liberals, whom he denounced as a "fifth column", promised to crack down on criminals and pledged to make Russia great again. "If you vote for me you will see change," he growled. "If you vote for the others you will get more of the same."

For those not interested in his politics, he handed out bottles of his "Zhirinovskiy vodka", copies of his Zhirinovskiy watch and even

brought in his own football team to play against a local amateur club. In spite of his solid television performance and his publicity stunts, even local party campaigners admitted that the political maverick had failed to shore up his sinking popularity and damaged image. Instead his supporters are turning elsewhere, particularly to the Communists and to General Aleksandr Lebed, the new champion of the nationalist cause.

In a straw poll taken in Kemerovo on the day of Mr Zhirinovskiy's visit this week it was clear that many of his supporters in the last polls felt disappointed, cheated and even disgusted by their former hero.

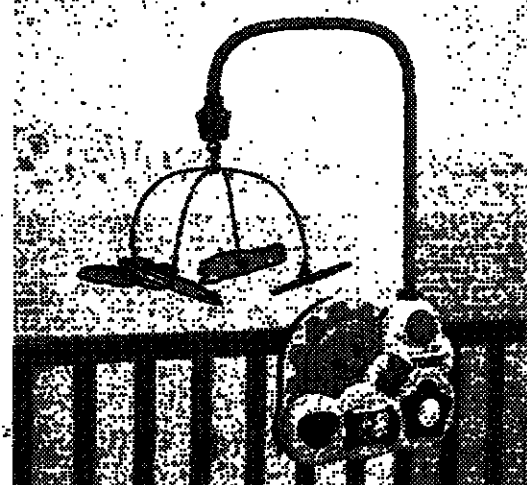
"I voted for Zhirinovskiy last time, but now I am reconsidering," said Vladimir Barbashin, a retired miner living on a pension of about £40 a month. "Now he is just a joker, a laughing stock."

Julia Streja, another former supporter of the Liberal Democratic Party, said she was switching her allegiance because of Mr Zhirinovskiy's unseemly escapades in public. In particular, she resented his participation in a recent brawl in the Duma, the Lower House of parliament, where he was seen grabbing a woman deputy by the hair and choking her.

Certainly, his television performance in Kemerovo did little to sway a group of undecided voters at a small café in the city centre. "I don't understand what he is going on about," said Valentina Petrova.

"Don't pay him any attention, he is just a clown," said the proprietor, who by popular request switched channels to the American soap opera, *Santa Barbara*.

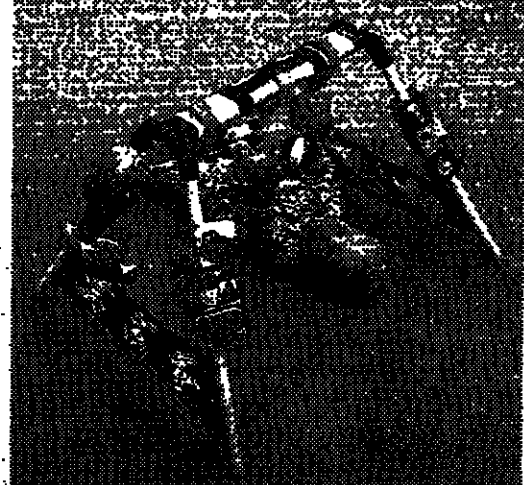
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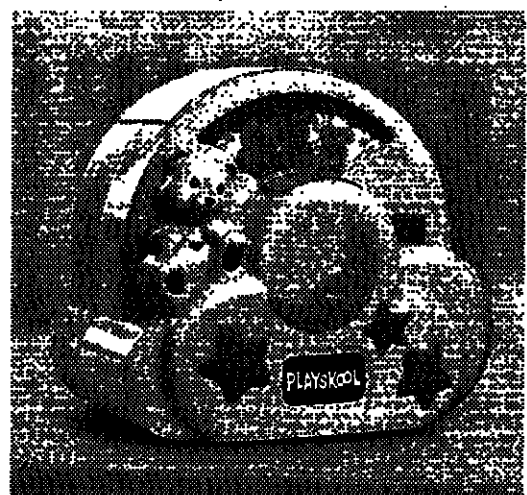
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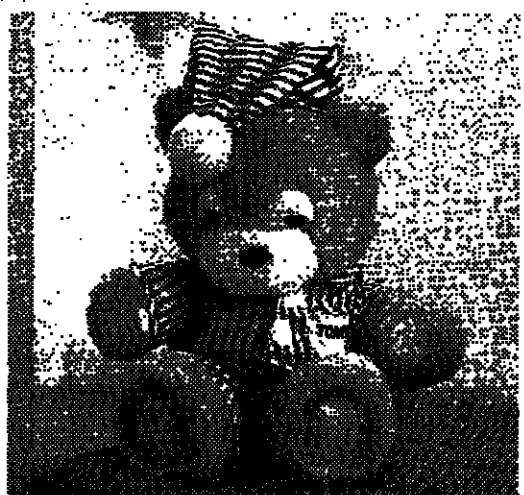
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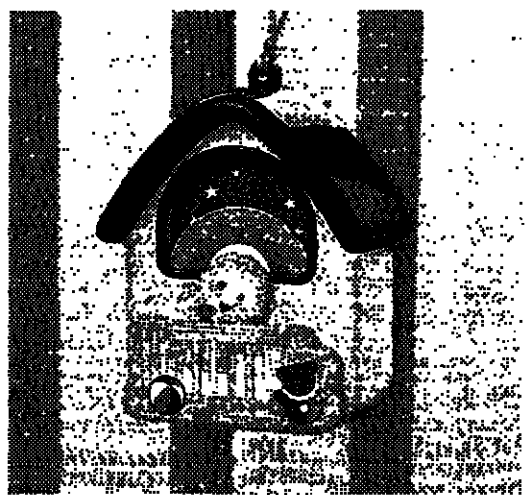
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## Cairo belly-dancers fear Russian rivals

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

FACED with death threats from Islamic militants, the thousands of belly-dancers in Egypt fear an even greater danger to their livelihoods by an invasion of garvenues from the former Soviet Union, who have learnt the art from videos sent to ballet schools.

Some Egyptian dancers have called for the 300 former Soviet dancers already here to be banned because they are degrading the oriental mystique of the shows. Club managers claim that the demand has been sparked by the fact that the northerners are prepared to perform for much less money.

"A top Egyptian dancer like Fifi Abdou can command 6,000 Egyptian pounds (£1,115) for half an hour's dancing, where a Russian equivalent would be lucky to get 800 pounds," Magdy Sobhy, a nightclub manager, said.

"Every month they send us scores of videos of potential dancers from Russia or the

Ukraine and we choose the best," Mr Sobhy added. The main complaint of the native dancers is that the Russians are willing to show more flesh for less money and also are available for what one termed "special services" after the shows.

Most of the foreign dancers arrive on six-month contracts which include hotel accommodation. A number allege there is heavy pressure to double up as prostitutes.

Leading article, page 21

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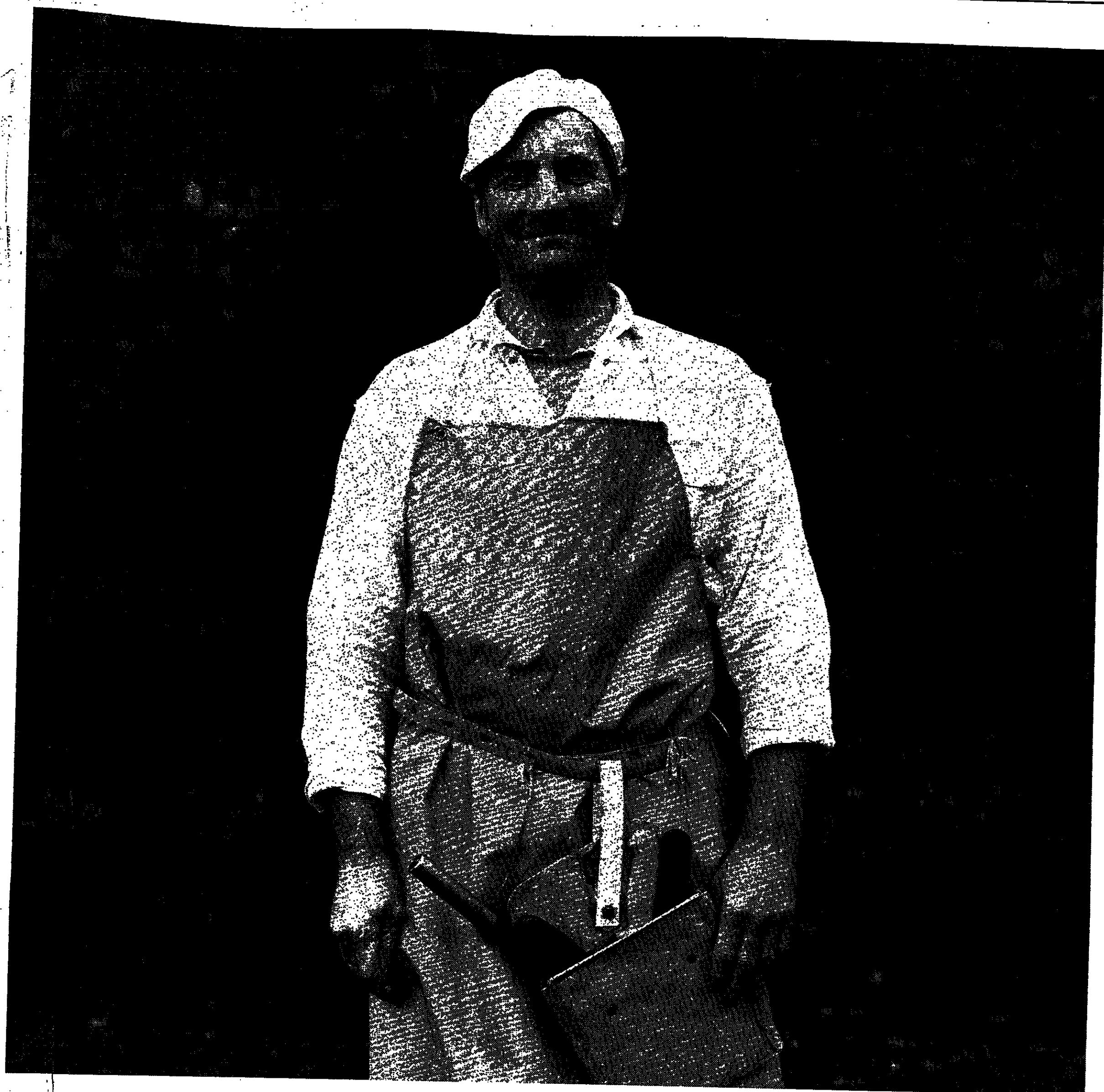
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## GEORGE ROBERTS, HEAD SLAUGHTERMAN AND ANIMAL LOVER.

**R**ashers, burgers, chops, drumsticks. It seems we have an almost endless variety of words to describe the meat that over ninety percent of us eats. The process by which a pig goes from trotting around the farm, to being freshly wrapped as a pound of sausages is not one that overly concerns us. It does however concern George Roberts. His concern is that the animals brought to him for slaughter are despatched with as little stress as possible. In so doing he could rightly be described as someone promoting animal welfare. In its way, his profession sums up what the job of those who live and work in the countryside is all about. That is, to answer the demands being made on the countryside by the whole of Britain, while ensuring that its overall welfare is considered and met. It's a balance that has to be maintained across all aspects of country life,

from ensuring that footpaths remain accessible, to preserving hedges and woodland specifically for wildlife. Why then does George feel that a section of the general public are ill disposed towards him? Why is his profession held by some in such disdain? In some areas this disdain manifests itself violently. For this reason we have not used George Robert's real name. Much of the problem is the breakdown in understanding that has taken place between town and country over the past fifty years. The rebuilding of that understanding is one of the main reasons for the establishment of The Countryside Movement. The process, we believe, has to start with our young people. Greater education in how the countryside actually works is essential. It is no use children growing up believing that livestock are pets or not realising that the reality of food production involves both life and death.

In this way they can come to understand the work that George Roberts does. The Countryside Movement's aim is to speak for the five million or so people living and working in rural Britain. In doing this we welcome support from everyone, wherever they live, who recognises the countryside as our greatest national asset. If you'd like to support The Countryside Movement fill in the coupon or telephone 0117 976 8900. There are no subscription or membership fees. Just the right to have your voice heard.

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First task facing Solana is to carry out Dayton accord on Bosnia peace deal

## Spaniard who was Nato opponent to head alliance

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE Nato alliance yesterday ended an embarrassing six-week wrangle over its leadership and agreed to appoint Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister and a one-time Nato opponent, as Secretary-General in succession to Willy Claes.

Nato's 16 foreign ministers will appoint Señor Solana, who has served in the Spanish Cabinet since 1982, at a Brussels meeting on Tuesday. His nomination as Nato's ninth Secretary-General and the first from a southern member since 1971, is novel because Spain, like France, is not a member of the integrated military command. Moreover, Señor Solana opposed American bases in Spain in the 1970s and campaigned as an opposition deputy against entry to the alliance in 1982.

The later pro-Atlantic shift by the Government of Felipe González and Spain's subsequent exemplary conduct in Nato have erased that past, diplomats said. Spanish F18 fighter-bombers were, for example, credited with effective action in the Nato operation in Bosnia this summer.

Señor Solana, who said he was "deeply moved" by the appointment, said his first

task would be to implement the Bosnia agreement signed in Dayton. "We will have to use all our capacity to make it succeed," he added. Part of that task will be helping to convince the US Congress to support the deployment of American ground forces.

The decision to appoint the capable but uncharismatic Spaniard prompted relief but little excitement at Nato headquarters, where work on the Bosnian operation has proceeded against a backdrop of international recriminations over the alliance's top civilian post. Britain was widely blamed for the diplomatic stumble which led to the American rejection of Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch politician who was Europe's first choice after Mr Claes was forced to resign over a Belgian political scandal. France and Greece then blocked Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish opposition leader.

The compromise choice of Señor Solana, 53, who had not even declared himself a candidate, followed discreet lobbying by Señor González, the Spanish Prime Minister. His departure, while winning prestige for Spain, will leave a big vacuum in the belea-

guered González team; he had been widely seen as the most likely successor as Socialist party leader if Señor González steps down at the next general elections, due in March.

President Chirac of France supported Señor Solana as preferable to Mr Ellemann-Jensen, although his skill in the French language is little better than the Dane's. France had insisted that the job must go to a man fluent in the alliance's other official language. Strong American support, announced on Thursday, helped to overcome German and British misgivings over Señor Solana's qualifications. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said last night that Señor Solana had "the right qualities and experience".

While the Foreign Office had no objections, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was reported to have had qualms, and Tory Eurosceptics lobbied this week to block the appointment.

President Clinton will meet Señor Solana when he visits Madrid today on the last leg of a European tour which has gone some way to smoothing European feuds ruffled by Washington's blunt behaviour over the appointment.



Javier Solana, Spain's Foreign Minister, speaking to reporters in Madrid yesterday about his appointment

## Socialist with a diplomatic gift for moderation

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

JAVIER SOLANA, the new Nato Secretary-General, comes from a distinguished line of Spanish diplomats. His grandfather, Salvador de Madariaga, was his country's delegate at the League of Nations.

Like his grandfather, who called himself to Oxford University after the Spanish Civil

War, Señor Solana is a fluent English-speaker. A physicist by training, he was a Fulbright scholar in the late 1960s.

Señor Solana joined the Young Socialists, then a clandestine organisation, in 1973 while a lecturer in solid-state physics at the Complutense University in Madrid. He was made a professor in 1975. In 1977 he was elected to the

Cortes as a Socialist deputy and has been a member of every parliament since then.

With the exception of Felipe González, the Prime Minister, Señor Solana is the only member of the Spanish Government who has been in every Cabinet since the Socialists won power in 1982.

He has, in the past, been Minister for both Culture and Education. In 1985, during the

referendum on Nato membership, Señor Solana was also the official spokesman of a Government which was campaigning for Spain to stay.

His three years as Foreign Minister have been marked by a pragmatism not shown by his predecessors. During the fisheries crisis with Canada earlier this year, Señor Solana's was a rare voice of moderation in Madrid.

## France 'set to recall thousands of troops from former African colonies'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE winds of change are sweeping through France's former colonies and reports that Paris is planning to recall thousands of troops from Africa after a review of its global defence commitments.

Nearly 800 soldiers in Chad will soon be brought back, while military bases at Libreville in Gabon, Abidjan in Ivory Coast and Bangui

in the Central African Republic could be closed down, *Libération* reported yesterday. Half the 3,400 troops stationed in Djibouti, the largest French military base in Africa, will be sent home, but the French naval depot at Dakar in Senegal and a military base at Bouar in the Central African Republic are expected to remain open.

News of the military cuts came on the eve of a summit for French-speaking nations in Benin, which

President Chirac is due to attend. France retains about 8,000 troops in Africa under various defence treaties and military assistance agreements.

Their duties range from humanitarian operations to military intervention in the event of external aggression. Most recently French troops stepped in when Bob Denard, the mercenary, attempted to stage a coup in the Comoros Islands. France's vital interests in

Africa have steadily declined over the past ten years and plans to scale back the French military presence there have been under discussion since before M Chirac's election last May. The Government is also expected to cut French ground forces as part of an overall review.

While French troops represent a crucial source of income to many African states, they have also become a volatile factor in local politics. African governments tend

to regard the French presence as an insurance policy against violent upheaval, while opposition groups are often quick to brand them as "forces of occupation".

Some French deployments have simply become outdated, such as the troops and jet fighters sent on a "temporary" basis to Chad a decade ago to face a military threat from Libya which no longer exists. The recalling of French troops, which is expected to start early next year,

amounts to a "national catastrophe" for Chad, *Libération* noted. President Idriss Deby of Chad is expected to raise the issue of troop deployment when he meets M Chirac today in Cotonou, the capital of Benin.

The planned reduction in Africa-based troops is also unlikely to go down well within the French military, where the prospect of an exotic tour of duty under the African sun remains a recruitment incentive.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Gun scare at White House

Washington: A man was arrested yesterday after driving into a restricted area near the White House with a number of lethal weapons in his car (Tom Rhodes writes). William Glover, 63, was stopped after he followed a bus through a security checkpoint set up earlier this year to the east of the White House.

A 22 calibre rifle, ammunition, a knife and a machete were found in the car. Glover has been arrested and charged with possession of unregistered and prohibited weapons and ammunition, and with carrying dangerous arms. He is said to have been unaware that he was driving into a restricted part of Washington.

### Press allowed in child star court

New York: A judge has ruled that the media can cover the court battle by the parents of Macaulay Culkin, the star of *Home Alone*, for custody of the 15-year-old actor and five of their other children. The case between Christopher Culkin and Patricia Brentrup was due to begin on Monday but has been delayed to allow time for appeals. (AP)

### Outlook gloomy for Papandreou

Athens: Doctors said that Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister who is on a life support system, would at best be away from his duties for a long time. Mr Papandreou has also been attended by Sir Magdi Yacoub, the British heart specialist. (Reuters)

### Break dancing

Buenos Aires: Activities promoting tango music and dance could get a tax break after the Argentine Senate approved a resolution declaring the tango to be a national "cultural treasure". (AFP)

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Beer and sandwiches are thrown at moderate union leader as strikers scrap in the streets

## Splits fuel Juppé's hopes

AS HEAD of France's largest union, Nicole Notat strode purposefully to the front of the column when protesters marched through Paris to kick off a crippling transport strike which has lasted more than a week.

Then the first ham sandwich landed, hurled by a member of her own union.

This was followed by a can of beer, missing Mme Notat's blonde bob by inches. In other circumstances the president of the CFTD (Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail), known variously as "the Tsarina" or "the Iron Lady" and reputedly the toughest woman in French politics, would probably have lunged it back.

But as the cries of "Notat resign!" grew and fighting

PARIS FILE  
by BEN  
MACINTYRE



broke out between her supporters and union militants, Mme Notat was bundled into a car and whisked away by her bodyguards. She later claimed to have had a lunch engagement.

For Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, whose plan to overhaul the welfare system has prompted the worst French strikes for a decade, it was a bright point in an otherwise grim week. Not that M Juppé has anything against Mme

Notat. Quite the reverse. When the Prime Minister unveiled his welfare reforms last month, Mme Notat said that, while she had some reservations, many of the proposals made sound economic sense.

That stance caused fury among fellow labour leaders and some members of her own, generally moderate union, but it has also pointed to fissures within the strike movement that represent M

Juppé's best hope of riding out the storm.

Marc Blondel and Louis Viannet, heads of the powerful Force Ouvrière and the Communist-led CGT, whose mutual loathing goes back many years, shook hands last week in a symbolic but less than convincing display of unity. M Blondel had the uncomfortable look of a man trying to perform a messy task in his best suit.

While Mme Notat's reasoned response to welfare reform has exposed her to a hail of criticism and sandwiches, she has become a pivotal figure in the dispute. Having sown the seeds of discord within the strike movement, the 47-year-old farmer's daughter from Lorraine is about to reap the benefits.

Mme Notat has demanded a meeting with the Prime Minister this weekend to lay out her objections to his plan, particularly over pension reform. If bowing to Mme Notat is the price of keeping the unions divided, M Juppé may decide it is worth paying — for the more projectiles that land on the Iron Lady, the happier he will feel.

the city's appalling air pollution, could have been more opportune. The general strike has led to a lifting of parking restrictions anyway and, since most of the city's streets are blocked with traffic jams from dawn, the chances of getting from one filling station to another without running out of electricity are nil.

There are also power cuts on the way, thanks to a strike by electricity workers.

## Ill timing for electric car switch

JEAN TIBERI, the Mayor of Paris, unveiled plans this week to promote the use of electric cars by exempting such vehicles from tax and offering free parking.

Some 17 electric filling stations have been installed in the French capital and more than 100 others will soon be added.

However, the timing of the announcement, which is part of a well-meaning effort to lessen

## Serb 'scorched earth' exodus feared

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

FEARS that Serbs in Sarajevo will stage a mass exodus, leaving a trail of burning buildings in their wake, when authority over Serb-held suburbs reverts to the Bosnian Government are growing as Serbs here voice their hostility to the Dayton agreement.

Serbs in the five Serb-controlled suburbs of Sarajevo — Ilidza, Grbavica, Iljasi, Vogosca and Hadzici — which are to come under government control, say they were cheated by the pact and have been staging angry protests over the past week. The Bosnian Serb authorities say 150,000 Serbs live there, but the United Nations estimates the number at about 70,000.

General Jean-René Bachelet, the French commander of UN troops in Sarajevo, attacked the plan for not providing security guarantees for the Serb districts of the

capital. "It seems unimaginable that the Serbs would accept the Bosnian police running their affairs," General Bachelet said. The American insistence on the withdrawal of the Bosnian Serb Army from the Serb suburbs would force "thousands of civilians to flee," he added.

"There is no doubt that before going the Serbs would carry out a scorched-earth policy. One would see on television screens the deplorable

image of French soldiers directing traffic while houses burn."

General Bachelet said that the French were being forced to enforce a plan that they had never agreed to. "In Dayton, General de Gaulle would no doubt have slammed the door," he said.

The French have requested early deployment of a UN police force to help to prevent a Serb exodus from Sarajevo. However, the police force will

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The French have requested early deployment of a UN police force to help to prevent a Serb exodus from Sarajevo. However, the police force will

only be empowered to monitor the local justice system and has no right to open fire, arrest or investigate.

Serb protesters have been chanting "We won't go!" and brandishing signs proclaiming: "We are Sarajevo". But when questioned about their plans once authority over the suburbs is transferred to the Bosnian Government, demonstrators in the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza said, almost unanimously, that they would leave.

"How can we live under their authority tomorrow when we have been fighting them for four years?" asked Sretanka, a Serb woman aged 44. "I will go with all the rest of my people. If Muslim authority is implemented."

"Dayton means 150,000 people have to go," said 23-year-old Nikola Rudana, a student in Ilidza.

## Nato force ready to fly in

Brussels: Nato gave the go-ahead yesterday for 2,600 troops to take up position in Bosnia to prepare for the deployment of a 60,000-strong, alliance-led peace force. Two hundred soldiers could leave today from the headquarters of the Rapid

Reaction Corps in Rastatt, Germany.

In Dublin, President Clinton said that he planned to tell American troops headed for Bosnia their mission would not be risk-free. "Indeed, being in the military is not risk-free."

## Senators abandon Basque inquiry

FROM REUTER IN MADRID

A PARLIAMENTARY investigation into charges that the ruling Socialists backed a "dirty war" against Basque guerrillas collapsed yesterday. A Senate committee voted not to question Felipe González, the Prime Minister, and other top officials.

Left with only police officers and middle-rank officials to question, the committee agreed to dissolve itself. A full Senate vote is needed to confirm the decision.

The inquiry had threatened to increase pressure on Señor González's Government, which is struggling to continue in office until March, when the Prime Minister has promised elections. The committee was set up on November 8 at the instigation of the Popular Party and United Left, over alleged government links to the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL) which murdered 27 alleged Basque separatists in the 1980s.

The result of yesterday's vote, made possible by the Catalan and Basque nationalist parties voting with the Socialists, was condemned by the United Left, which claimed bargains had been made behind the scenes.

"Those who want to try to bury the GAL won't get away with it," the United Left's parliamentary leader, Rosa Aguilar, said yesterday.

She accused Señor González and the Popular Party leader, José María Aznar, of conspiring to cover up the Government's campaign to defeat Eta separatists.

If, as expected, the Senate confirms the decision to wind up the committee, Señor González, Narcis Serra, former Deputy Prime Minister, and José Barriónuevo, former Interior Minister, will no longer face a political tribunal. However, a judicial inquiry is continuing and Señor González may be called for questioning in that investigation.

In another development the former president of the northern Spanish region of Navarra and his former public works minister were arrested yesterday on suspicion of corruption, court sources in Madrid said.

## Removal of screen sheds new light on Picasso masterpiece

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

ONE OF Picasso's largest and most symbolic works, his huge painting, *Guernica*, has been given a new dimension. The bulletproof glass that protected but distorted the picture has been removed at the Reina Sofia Art Museum in Madrid.

The painting now transmits sensations that we were incapable of perceiving before, said Carmen Alborch, the Minister of Culture, at a special showing.

"In the background there are drawings that you could not guess were there before the glass was removed. The colour is impressive."

José Guirao, director of the Reina Sofia, said that remov-

ing the glass gave back "the proportions, nuances and colours that were distorted before."

"Our task is to eliminate the barriers so that the public can view the works here with complete clarity."

The painting, measuring 23ft by 10ft 6in and which portrays the Nazi bombing of the Basque town of Guernica during the 1936-1939 Spanish Civil War, came to symbolise the outrages of European fascism. Picasso went into exile after the war as a mark of opposition to Francisco Franco's 1939-1975 dictatorship.

The work, kept in New York for 42 years, depicts the horrors of war in cartoon-like

black and white figures. It was subjected to an ink attack at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, but Picasso, who died in exile in 1973, said the work should not return to Spain until full democracy had been restored.

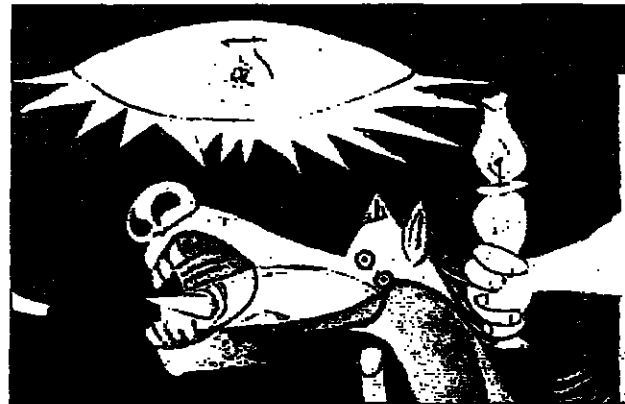
The painting will have a permanent guard and be monitored by television cameras and other security devices, including a metallic band that will keep visitors 9ft away from the oil on canvas work.

"There is always the possibility that a madman will attack this or another work of art," Señor Guirao said.

*Guernica* was first displayed on June 12, 1937, in the pavilion of the Republic of Spain at the International Fair in Paris.

Picasso himself refused to explain his monumental work, but as it toured America the art critic Henry McBride said *Guernica* had been conceived as an instrument of propaganda, "but had finished by becoming something more important: a work of art."

The controversial work was finally returned to Spain in 1981 amid intense security. With the removal of the bulletproof screen, *Guernica* can at last be viewed as Picasso had intended.



A detail from "Guernica", Picasso's anti-fascist painting

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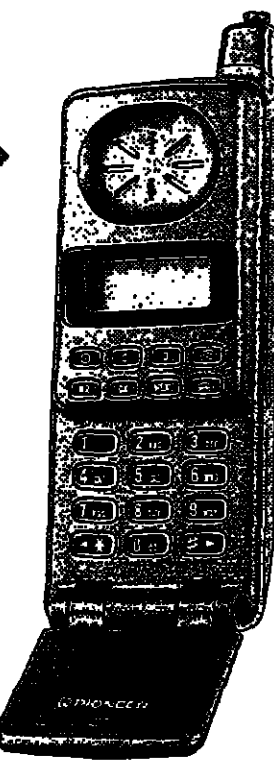
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## OPINION

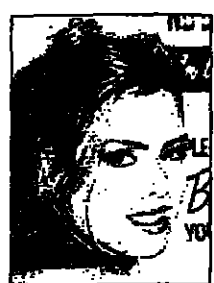
Did the luvvies really think that Kenneth Clarke would play fair in the Budget?



## THEATRE

Freud, Dali and the rest are back in the limelight as *Hysteria* returns to the West End

## THE TIMES ARTS



## BASE NOTES

Former pop starlet Kim Wilde will head the London cast of the musical *Tommy*



## BASE NOTES

...and Jessica Lange is lined up for Peter Hall's staging of *A Streetcar Named Desire*

## Cut to the quick? Don't be, luvvie

If they ever compile a *Penguin Book of Fatuous Newspaper Headlines* (and it can only be a matter of time) a place of honour will surely be reserved for that indestructible classic, "Arts World in Uproar over Cuts", and its many variants. It certainly conjures up a wonderful image of luvvies frothing at the mouth across the country.

But where is that image filed in the mind of Joe Public? Somewhere between a British Rail excuse invoking leaves on the line and an Arsenal manager promising to provide entertaining football, I should imagine. We have heard it all before. We will hear it all again. And, in its quaint and fantastical way, it adds greatly to the gaiety of the nation. But we don't believe a word of it.

The newspapers garnered a rich harvest of luvvie-going-ballistic this week, after the announcement that £5 million is to be lopped off the Arts Council's grant. And in general the luvvies could not have

shot themselves in the foot more effectively if their remarks had been scripted by Mr Terry Dicks, MP and Philistine-in-Chief to the Tory party.

The Almeida Theatre's Ian McDiarmid takes the Sir Peter Hall Prize for Ludicrous Overstatement with his "It could lead to the wholesale destruction of the arts in this country". Somebody had to say it; he got in first. Dan Crawford, artistic director of the King's Head, Islington, wins the Janet Street-Porter Cup for Preposterous Posturing with: "We were going to put on *Porgy and Bess* next year but that's off now." Oh dear, how will the residents of Islington struggle through 1996 without seeing grand opera staged in the back room of a pub?

The Trevor Nunn Award for Being a Bit Hazy about Figures

goes to Catherine Lampert, director of the Whitechapel Art Gallery, for her delightful "The £5 million cut is more or less the whole amount given to the visual arts in England." Well, more or less. To be precise, it's less than a third of the subsidy given to the National Gallery alone. But never mind the arithmetic, just feel the outrage.

And the Lord Palumbo Memorial Trophy for Grandiose Self-Delusion is presented to the hilarious "Mik" Flood of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, a lavishly subsidised rest-home for posers which has made no discernible impact on British intellectual life for at least 20 years. He came up with a vintage quip: "We, run some of the most interesting cultural debate programmes in Britain — these are now at risk." Oh Mik, the things you promise.



RICHARD MORRISON

The arts world has cried wolf, rape and blue murder so many times in the past, and then miraculously staggered on, that no outsider can tell whether the distress flares are genuine this

time round. I suspect that in some cases they are, although it is probably not the people making most noise who are most at risk.

I also suspect that the prevailing belief among arts people — that they are being vindictively penalised by the Treasury because the arts have received so much lottery money — is pretty close to the truth. Pledges were made about lottery money not being a substitute for existing government subsidy. They have been shamelessly broken — but then, politicians often renege on promises. They will continue to do so, probably until the arts receive no more in real terms from subsidy and lottery handouts combined than they did in palmer days from subsidy alone.

Then the lottery takings will start to tail off. That is when the

real catastrophe will come. You think this week has been a crisis? You ain't seen nothing yet.

But didn't the Arts Council expect this political betrayal from the start? If it didn't, it must be composed of extraordinarily naive and trusting folk. And if it did, it should never have agreed that lottery money could only be used for "capital projects", leaving arts companies to wither into extinction for lack of day-to-day funds. Either way, its members have failed once again. They should be thinking about resignation.

After that pleasing sight, what next? In the short term it should not be beyond the wit of mankind to devise a subterfuge for channeling some lottery money into additional revenue funding for the companies

that need it most desperately. But that should not distract from the main task, which (as I outlined last week) must be to use the windfall of the lottery to finance a huge programme of arts education: a nationwide campaign to transform the size, age and social background of arts participants and consumers once and for all. For while the arts constituency is relatively small, politicians will find it laughably easy to elbow it aside in the contemptuous way that we have seen this week.

The £5 million subsidy cut could have a beneficial result if it jolts arts leaders into instigating a drive towards accessibility and "out-reach" (ghastly American word, but graphic). But whingeing about your cancelled pub-theatre *Porgy and Bess* is worse than useless. It confirms the suspicions of those who think that the arts world exists primarily to fuel the egos of those working within it. Which of course is not the case. People go into politics for that.

## Veteran voice of authenticity

THE 50th anniversary of Bartók's death is being marked with thoroughness by the London Symphony Orchestra and the Barbican, where the composer's compatriot Georg Solti is taking charge of three concerts.

Collectively, the programmes form a rich celebration of one of this century's most original musical minds, but Thursday's alone made an eloquent tribute: two key works, the Second Piano Concerto and *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, received arresting, inspiring performances.

Few musicians are better qualified to play Bartók than Solti, who during his teens received piano lessons from the composer (strangely, Bartók never taught composition). And few communicate his music better than this octogenarian conductor, who still brings to his performances the abrasive, nervous energy so central to the idiom. Solti's impulsive style can be worrying in some repertoire, but in Bartók he is the voice of authenticity.

In the concerto he was joined by another Hungarian, the pianist András Schiff. Together they gave a performance one is tempted to call "definitive": in the turbulent outer movements, not all of Schiff's notes were in place, but he played with musical energy, reveling in the spiky dance rhythms. Solti matched him by moulding short-winded melodies in the orchestra, and conjuring up the mysterious "night music" of the slow movement in sustained string playing. Rearrangement of the orchestra brought pungent clarity to the textures: winds and brass were placed in front, around the piano, with strings at the back. Schiff treated the concerto as

a giant chamber work, reacting to individual orchestral lines with fresh spontaneity.

*Duke Bluebeard's Castle* is one of the most depressing of operas, and little of its power is lost in concert performance: there is not much dramatic action, and Bartók's ingenious orchestration "paints in" the scenery. The libretto by the poet and screenwriter Béla Balázs supplies the mind's eye with still more imagery. Nothing of this escaped Solti, whose achievement was to evoke the jittery detail while building tension through the opening of successive doors. He drew bristling playing from the LSO, itself in full command of Bartók's floods of colour. *The Fifth Door* might have sounded more climactic with a better organ.

Making allowances for Julia Varady's birth in Romania to Hungarian parents, this was an all-Hungarian cast. The soprano is always to be welcomed, but here she was less than ideal. In a part often taken by a mezzo, she lacked vocal heft in the middle of her voice to ride the lush orchestration, and her chest register has a hardness inappropriate to Judith's character. László Polgar was excellent here: his granite-like bass-baritone gave him impatient, imposing authority. Sándor Kékes's gravely spoken prologue set the tone for a performance of disturbing power.

JOHN ALLISON

## CONCERT

LSO/Solti Barbican

From left: Tim Potter (Dali), Fred Pearson (Yahuda) and Henry Goodman (Freud) in Terry Johnson's *Hysteria*

## Lightning strikes twice

Terry Johnson's excellent play encompasses so many genres that even Polonius might have trouble shackling them together into one of his multi-hyphenated adjectives. Comical-farce-tragic-historical-psychanalytical just about covers it, but there is a touch of pastoral too in the glimpse of the lawn of 20 Maresfield Gardens, Hampstead. This was Freud's home during the last year of his life, and Johnson has seized on a number of true events — a trip to see *Rookery Nook*, a visit from Salvador Dali — and spliced them together in a fantastical but dramatically logical pattern.

Two years after its award-winning run at the Royal Court, Johnson's play becomes the second in the series of Royal Court Classics to be revived at the Duke of York's. Henry Goodman and Tim Potter are back as Freud and Dali, Phyllida Lloyd directs again, and Mark Thompson recreates his astonishing, metamorphosing set.

This has to do a double duty, representing Freud's study, complete with famous couch, but later his hallucinating mind when accusing memories take visible shape and tip the Father of Psychoanalysis into an Aldwych farce as reimagined by the Father of Surrealism.

Goodman achieves the re-

## THEATRE

Hysteria Duke of York's

markable feat of combining close physical resemblance to the ailing Freud, a persuasive impression of his manner with patients and the wild invention required of a hero of farce. Johnson's version of Freud imagines that the half-naked daughter of one of his first patients has come to reproach him, and must be concealed from his consensory physician (Fred Pearson).

The situation instantly opens itself to farce's familiar

ingredients of lost undies, stunned interlopers and unwanted things emerging from the closet. But at the heart of the upheaval lurks the ambitious young Freud's rejection of childhood abuse as the cause of hysteria, and his decision to replace it with the seduction fantasy.

Aisling O'Sullivan's Jessica gives a striking performance as the passionate, artful, gasping young woman, swooping — as all the characters must do — between the gestures of pain and the grimaces of pandemonium. Likewise, Potter's dandyish Dali is both a credible portrait of the effervescent original and a springboard for farcical crisis.

The double or even treble

level on which the play operates is what makes it so enjoyable: there is stimulus along with the slapstick and, in the surrealist apotheosis, where walls melt and the telephone turns into a lobster. Lloyd's direction and Thompson's set fashion the most exciting gift the theatre can offer: sheer amazement.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Wilde to be mum

THE pop star Kim Wilde is to make her West End debut next March in the new production of Pete Townshend's rock opera, *Tommy*. She will play Tommy's mother, the role taken by Ann-Margret in Ken Russell's film version, *Tommy*, a hit on Broadway, will open at the Shaftesbury Theatre on March 5, with previews from February 20.

FOLLOWING their revival of Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*, producer Bill Kenwright and actor Tom Conti return to the West End with Neil Simon's 1977 play, *Chapter Two*, which opens on January 29 at the Apollo. David Gilmore directs. Kenwright's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, to be directed by Peter Hall and intended for January, will now open in October, with Jessica Lange as Blanche du Bois.

WINNER of four Tony Awards last year, Stephen Sondheim's new musical *Pastor* is set for a West End opening in March. Starring Michael Ball, *Pastor* is the third musical Sondheim has created with the writer and director James Lapine, following *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods*. Previews begin at the Queen's Theatre on March 13.

THE hype is already building over what would have been rock'n'roll icon Buddy Holly's 60th birthday, next September 7. A museum in his honour is to be opened in

his home town of Lubbock, Texas; a new biography is on the way and, inevitably, a tribute album is to be released. The miracle of modern technology will enable the Hollies to sing on it with him, while Nanci Griffith performs with his backing band, the Crickets.

ABSENT from our stages since *Sienna Red* closed on tour in 1991, the playwright Stephen Poliakoff looks set to be the dramatist of 1996, with major new plays at his erstwhile stamping grounds, the Hampstead and the National. In February he directs his own play *Sweet Panic* for the Hampstead. The play concerns a child psychologist who comes into conflict with the mother of one of her young clients. In August Poliakoff returns to the National for the first time since 1987 with *Blinded by the Sun*, to be directed by Ron Daniels.

A 27-year-old London-based writer, Jacinta Stringer, has won the inaugural Allied Domecq Playwright Award, worth £5,000. Stringer's *Vanzemaljac* (the Serbo-Croat word for alien) "deals with the notion of aliens, not necessarily in the sci-fi context, but in the context of our society as a whole," she says. Part of her prize is the opportunity to have *Vanzemaljac* produced and staged at London's Bush Theatre next year.

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## TELEVISION

**Giant of Beverly Hills: Aaron Spelling tops 3,000 TV episodes... and still counting**



## RECORDS

**Pavarotti shows rare clips of great tenors in a new video: reviewed in Weekend, page 8**

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ON MONDAY

**What shall we do with Somerset House? One of London's great buildings needs a new role**



## NEXT WEEK

**Reviews of the fabulous Vermeer show in Washington DC, and Paris's latest shocker**

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

**Rising stars in the arts firmament:  
MARCEL MCCALLA**

Profession: Performer

Age: 14

Where can he be seen? At the London Palladium until December 18, playing the sprightliest Artful Dodger imaginable in the Cameron Mackintosh-Sam Mendes revival of *Oliver!*

What are his gifts? Energy and enthusiasm. He is also a mean hooper. Small, bright-eyed and possessed of a huge stage presence. Does he look at the audience? "Sometimes people catch my eye. I like it when they're singing the songs and having a good time."

How did he get the part? McCalla joined the show in July as one of Fagin's gang, graduating to the Dodger two months later. As a child, he recalls: "I used to grab my gran and brother and dance around, but I thought: 'Oh, this is just a muckaround.' I didn't know it would lead to anything like this. I'm amazed."

How does he get on with his colleagues? Very well, even though Leonard Kirby, who was playing Charley Bates, has left the cast, as has the production's first Nancy, Sally Dexter. "I was really sad because Charley is like my friend, and Sally's gone and I really used to like her." The upside: Jim Dale, the show's new Fagin who, McCalla's mother says, has called it "a pleasure" to work with her son. And composer Lionel Bart, whom McCalla finds "cuddly".

What about school? McCalla is in his GCSE year at Brentside High School in Hanwell, a bus journey away from the west London home he shares with his mother and three siblings (his father, a salesman, died when McCalla was four). "I really do want to be an actor, but I won't let my schoolwork fail," he says. "I've got to stick it out at school because maybe some actors are not in work all the time so they need something to fall back on." Favourite subjects? English, drama and art.

What's next? Television commercials, he hopes, and cinema. "I want desperately to do a film. I like films where everyone is young. I like *Bugsy Malone*; I think that's really good." And as for *Oliver*? "I don't want to leave at all; I want to stay forever. I really hope I'll stay short and my voice won't break."

MATT WOLF

## A dynasty of dandy candy

America's most prolific film producer has just passed an astonishing figure. Aaron Spelling, the self-proclaimed vendor of "mind candy", has said "cut" on his 3,000th television episode.

If you sat down to watch, without interruption, every film Spelling has made, it would be 125 days before you emerged from the viewing suite. Afterwards, your image of the world might be sugary, but there are worse conditions.

Spelling's creations have ranged from *Charlie's Angels* to *Dynasty*, *The Love Boat* and *Stark* and *Hutch*. His current hits, *Melrose Place* and *Beverly Hills 90210*, maintain the Spelling doctrines of fast action, slim storylines and good-looking stars. No wells of human misery are plumbed here. It is American life taken and glamorized.

Spelling's success in diverting his audiences has made him the quintessential Hollywood figure. Last week, in a rare accolade, the show-business magazine *Variety* devoted more than 100 pages to his life story. Tributes came from rivals, friends, family and the major networks.

One of the *Variety* ads was paid for by his accountant ("Thanks for letting me count your beans" - Matthew Houtbrink), and with good reason. For Spelling, who arrived in Hollywood as a penniless bit-part actor in 1953, is now valued at \$235 million - and rising. His 123-room house in Beverly Hills is on any tourist coach's itinerary. Spelling often goes out to talk to his visiting fans. "They

**Aaron Spelling has produced his 3,000th television episode, writes Quentin Letts**

built that house," he explains. "That is why I say hello."

For 40 years he has shown how to tap into - or perhaps stall - the minds of a global television audience. The critics have carped, as they often do with populists. Spelling feels that they miss the point. With *Charlie's Angels*, for instance, he and his associates thought it was "great camp. How can you believe there were three young private detectives making \$500 a week, wearing \$10,000 Nolan Miller wardrobes and working for a man who was a voice on the telephone?"

Sometimes the lack of critical praise wounded him. "I got tired of the critics saying that I was the master of schlock," he admits. "It didn't bother me until my kids began growing up and reading it."

Spelling was born in 1928 in Texas, the son of an immigrant tailor. His Dallas background gave him a bluff card to play when he reached Hollywood in the early Fifties: they presumed he must know all about the Wild West. In those days he lived in a \$3-a-night hotel, pestering movie studios for work and selling his decrepit Plymouth car for \$150 so that he could eat. The

Dallas accent got him a part in a small television western, which in turn landed him an audition for *Gunslinger*, a successful television series.

Afterwards he was standing at the bus stop outside the studio when a man approached and asked how the reading had gone. "Dunno," said Spelling. "But I hope I'll get the part." The man replied: "Oh, you'll get it. I wrote it for you." It was Sam Peckinpah.

Spelling then met Alan Ladd who, hearing that he was a western expert, gave him a script to read. Spelling rewrote it and promptly found himself hired as Ladd's producer. "Compelling Spelling", as they soon started to call him, did not look back.

In the course of his 3,000 shows he has exercised considerable powers of patronage. In the days of *Charlie's Angels*, a young studio executive called Michael Eisner tried to make Spelling drop Jaclyn Smith, then an unknown actress. Spelling refused. He found Julia Roberts in *Satisfaction* (1988), punted Heather Locklear to supermarket-aisle stardom with *Dynasty*, T.J. Hooker and *Melrose Place*, and saved a handsome but dwindling young actor, Brian Austin Green, from a life in B movies by casting him in *90210*.

Luke Perry, another *90210* star, describes entering Spelling's office - so big it has its own waiter - to find "the longest casting couch in the world". Other Spelling "babes", such as Ted Lange, have gone on to successful directing careers, while Fred Gandy (*The Love Boat*) made it to the House of Representatives.

Bernie Kopell, a colleague of Gandy on *The Love Boat*, has only to look out of his window to realise that Spelling changed his life. "I see my tennis court and I say Yes,



Despite his success, the Emmy-winning Aaron Spelling has nightmares that it is all a fantasy

Aaron Spelling paid for that." Emma Samms of *Dynasty* says that, thanks to Spelling, she has yet to visit a country where she has not been recognised.

Hart to Hart, *Aloha Paradise*, *The Colbys*, *Chopper One*, *Matt Houston* - the list is endless. Few Spelling shows are remembered for their dialogue, cinematography or

spiritual lifts, but they have, over the years, formed a vital part of American life. The hairstyles, costumes, folksy characters and corny lines have provided reference points for each decade. *Charlie's Angels* and *Dynasty* are cultural anchors for the Seventies and Eighties.

Meanwhile, the man who made them is planning further television episodes, working weekends to turn around scripts on his manual typewriter. He once spoke of his recurring nightmare: that his success had been a fantasy and that he is in fact still back on Browder Street, Dallas, short of cash and unknown. With show number 3,000 in the can, perhaps he can start to relax.

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# Universities should follow soccer's lead

Max Beloff believes it is time to form an academic premier league

What our universities most lack today is not money, as they believe, but leadership. They must follow the example of an institution really taken seriously by the British — association football. A "premier league" of the best universities should be set up to further the advancement of research coupled with individual teaching of students. The league would have the prestige to negotiate with government as the nation's voice for science and scholarship.

Occasionally, an eminent scientist — academics in the humanities are more chary of challenging the official line — points out that the system is going wrong. But for the most part the universities allow major inroads to be made upon their own capacity to fulfil their allotted role without any collective protest. The most glaring recent example was the transfer of the Research Councils to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Nor do the demands the universities make on government and Parliament deal with the real needs of students and teachers. They concentrate on resources. The main submission to the last public expenditure survey from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) was that the check on the growth in higher education should be abandoned and the acceleration of recent years resumed. Yet, on the CVCP's own showing, the recent growth has not yet been satisfactorily absorbed.

While Britain used to pride itself on the high proportion of students completing their courses — and it is the number of graduates not of students that counts — we now have a serious drop-out problem. Sometimes the reasons are financial, sometimes it is because the students are ill-prepared for university study. For many students the need to supplement grants and loans means they take on part-time work to an extent which interferes with their studies. The new student loan proposals will not help.

And when one looks at the scale of their growth in recent years all this is hardly surprising. Between 1984-85 and 1993-94 the number of full-time students rose 77 per cent and of part-time students 67 per cent. Yet the CVCP demands an increase in the participation rate for the relevant age group from 30.6 per cent to 40 per cent by the year 2000. Yet, since no government is going to fund such an expansion, it can only mean a further diminution in student support and academic salaries, and the undermining of study in the shape of laboratories and libraries.

Too little has been done to see standards do not fall. The attacks by Labour and the self-styled "National Commission for Education" on A levels have not been robustly condemned by the CVCP.

Why does the CVCP point down a road which it knows the country will not travel? The answer lies in the growth in the number of institutions. We now have almost 100 institutions entitled to call themselves universities. In addition there are some 50 other bodies with degree-granting powers. All demand a share of the decreasing cake — all can only be satisfied by forms of funding which obliterate the distinctions between them.

We have passed from an elitist

system of higher education to a mass system without any of the safeguards that exist in the United States, where such a shift first took place. When government looks at schools it claims to be interested in variety; when it comes to higher education it produces a system which is based on uniformity. And the CVCP goes along with it.

Of course variety persists despite the operations of the funding councils and other instruments of central control. Some universities continue to demand high standards for entry — others are less choosy. Some offer courses in the standard sciences and humanities, and only to degree level; others are prepared to dilute the differences between degrees and lesser qualifications. In principle, the spread of opportunities for study at any level is welcome provided that not too much is sacrificed. Why should there not be differences of mission between institutions? Brighton University and the University of Sussex do good work but they are not very similar. Buckingham University has a very different role from Luton University.

But there is a price. It is sometimes thought that the older

universities are worried about the newcomers only on financial grounds — more for them, less for us. Not so.

A few decades ago, no one thought of monitoring the quality of what universities provided. The system of external examiners was a sufficient guarantee of standards. Because of lack of trust in the new institutions, a whole apparatus of control has been forced on all institutions alike.

What this means is endless bureaucratisation, so scholars and scientists spend more and more time filling in forms. The time spent on all this nonsense must come from somewhere. It cannot decently be spared from teaching so it comes at the expense of research.

Any advanced economy needs a high output of those with the relevant skills. There may be many ways in which this demand can be met, though it is hard to see how the amalgamation of the Departments of Employment and Education has helped. But advanced economies and societies need two other things from their universities, or at least some of them — a process for the education of an elite necessary to run the country, and first-class research which is not only fundamental to industry but confers on the country a vital reservoir of authority and influence.

An important task of the proposed premier league would be to assist its members to find new sources of funding to free themselves from the constraints of the funding councils as the great American universities have done.

They must say farewell to the CVCP, and enable it to concentrate on institutions which do require a measure of external assistance. Some ten universities suggest themselves as the initial members of a premier league; but as other universities prove their worth they must also be able to seek admission. This will all be different and painful; but is there any other way? Lord Beloff is a former Principal of the University of Buckingham.

Forgive me, young, this morning's folderol cannot be fully appreciated by anyone under 50. You have to know what you were doing on the night PC George Dixon was shot.

Those who do know were of course all doing the same thing. They were sitting in a 1950 cinema, because that was where PC George Dixon got it. Sure, he has been continuing to get it on a spasmodic basis every time *The Blue Lamp* reappears on television, and it is therefore on the cards that many people under 50 have seen him getting it, but that is not the same thing at all, they will not remember what they were doing when he got it for the tenth time, since it was the first time that was the unforgettable one. This was not only because, 45 years ago, the sacrosanctity of the unnamed uniform was a bit more sacred than it is today, but also because its contents on this occasion were Jack Warner. In 1950, Jack Warner was the nation's most lovable man. It was inconceivable that Jack

Warner would get it. So when PC George Jack Dixon Warner slowly proceeded in the direction of Dirk Bogarde's Webley, 1950 audiences knew the Webley would not go bang: Dirk would realise who was doing the proceeding, chuck in the towel, and offer his ear for the clip which was standard Met issue in 1950. Not that he would receive even that, for this was Jack Warner. Jack Warner did not clip.

But 1950 audiences were wrong. To our indescribable horror, after five dreadful seconds of slow proceeding, the Webley did go bang, and PC George Dixon, helmet stoutly but pitifully undisturbed, sank gently to his lovable knees, and expired. It was the most terrible sight anyone in Britain had ever seen — so unacceptably terrible, indeed, that four years later, George Dixon's corpse was resurrected by the BBC at Dock Green, where it continued to plod lovably for 21 more years (with no explanation ever being offered as to why there wasn't a big hole in the front of its uniform).

## Alan Coren



Sometimes even policemen need protection

until being allowed to retire peacefully, in 1976.

But we did not know, on that grim 1950 night, that PC Dixon would rise from the dead. Shaken, bereft, we shuffled from our Odeons, with only one question whizzing about inside our heads: had we been there, what would we have done in those five dreadful

seconds to stop Dirk in his tracks for this, remember, was in the days before it was a punishable offence to cause distress to a criminal going about his business? I do not know how adults answered, I know only that for days thereafter playgrounds buzzed with heroically interventionist fantasies: grab his gun, kick his shins, poke your pencil in his eye, do that ju-jitsu stuff, swing your satchel at his head, chuck a vicer bottle at his groin, open out that horse-hooves thing on your jack-knife.

Was the right course of action, then, ever resolved? Then, not; for me at least, it was not resolved for me until last Monday evening, 45 years on, in the lavatory at Heathrow airport. Arriving from France off one of those flights on which cabin apologies for the long delays are expressed in free drinks, I hit the arrivals-area at a forgivable clip, backed for the gents, and was soon gratefully whizzing myself out. Duty sorted, I moved to the washbasins like a good boy, whereupon a uniformed

constable took my former place at the urinal. And it was as I turned to go that I saw that a Japanese, I assumed tourist, had taken out his camera and was pointing it at the widdling copper. Incensed at what was clearly about to become a nasty joke at this silling country's international expense, I did not hesitate: without a second thought, and much in the manner of Lytton Strachey finding his sister about to be pounced upon by a priapic Hui, I interposed my body between the uniform and the snapper, who, trigger-finger committed, could not stay himself from shooting.

The flash flashed. The copper glanced up, and glanced back down again. The tourist saw my wagging finger, shrugged and left. I went out, too, to hail a cab for Cricklewood, feeling good: one day soon, a Tokyo chemist will find this strange snapshot of an angry man gesticulating in a public lavatory. He will not realise he is looking at a hero. With any luck, he may even call the police.

# Dear Bill, you owe me one

For Bill Clinton to pretend that the 15 months of peace in Ulster has anything to do with him is ludicrous

From the Prime Minister

Dear Mr President, So did it work? I eagerly await news of the opinion polls on your European visit. We much enjoyed having you both with us.

Now you owe me one. As you know there is great worry here at the terrible communal strife in Los Angeles and other American inner cities. The gangland slaughter is, I gather, now claiming many more deaths per head than the little trouble in Northern Ireland that recently captured your attention. Britons were upset to watch night after night on television the racial conflict shown up in the Rodney King and O.J. Simpson cases. We are naturally concerned that a superpower should contain such parodies of Third World killing fields.

I have consulted with my European colleagues on this matter. We feel that the root of the trouble lies in the lack of movement on urban reform to bring the various ethnic groups together. The large arsenals of weapons now in the hands of gang leaders, white and black, are of deep concern to us. Some have been used against our tourists visiting your country. My suggestion is that leaders of goodwill throughout Europe should express their thanks for your bringing peace (as your media puts it) to Bosnia and Ulster by calling on all sides in your urban conflict to seek a settlement leading to a lasting peace. We propose that talks about

talks start right away. I am aware that this "peace process" requires all sides to lay down their weapons (we might call it decommissioning). I know you have trouble with your gun lobby over this, so I propose to set up an international body to examine the matter and tell you how best to proceed. I am happy to chair this body alongside two senior parliamentarians. It might work on a parallel "twin track" to the peace process itself. You will agree that we must all give peace a chance in America's inner cities.

The Princess of Wales, whose therapist recently appointed her "queen of hearts to the world", is available to go on a mission of reconciliation to Watts. She will

get huge headlines and I can send a British tree for her to plant. The Queen would be happy to welcome both Mr King and Mr O.J. Simpson to Buckingham Palace as a gesture of peace. I know you will not object if I offer your Reverend Farrakhan a visa and lunch at Downing Street. I will press on him some token renunciation of violence in advance of a visit by myself and other European leaders in May 1997.

There are some of your countrymen who might regard this offer as insufferably smug. They might see it as the action of an arrogant and morally bankrupt continent eager to divert attention from its domestic inadequacies. They might feel that the problems of America's inner cities are complex and not susceptible to outside meddling and platitudes. I know from talking to you that you would not share this view.

Once again, May 1997 is the date. I repeat, you owe me one. Yours ever, John Major

The most important speech given by President Clinton in Europe this week was not to the British Parliament or to the peoples of Belfast, Londonderry or Dublin. He gave it at a reception at the American Embassy residence in London's Regent's Park at 6.30 last Wednesday, before leaving for the Downing Street dinner. Unpublished, the 300-strong audience

was carefully selected from the London American community. Each guest was able to shake the hands of Bill and Hillary and some even won a photograph.

The speech was about peace and there was no mention of Northern Ireland. It was raw politics. Three times the President pleaded with those present to call their senators and congressmen back home and lobby for his Bosnian policy initiative. He made no bones. He needed American boys in Bosnia and needed them badly.

Political success depends on three things: timing, timing, and timing. Both Mr Clinton and Mr Major are now working to clocks that cannot have them at talks before they have handed in their



The election clocks are ticking for Bill Clinton and John Major

far been shrewd. Its achievement has been 15 months of real peace in the Province. For Americans to pretend this has anything to do with Washington is ludicrous. It arose from the obscure chemistry of the Provisional IRA, brewed in flats, bars and hovels from Ardoyne and Andersonstown to the Bogside. As for this week's shenanigans, they were a premature celebration of an achievement from which Mr Major was most wise to absent himself. The money last-minute deal on the Mitchell "twin track" commission was a spit in the hand at a Sligo horse fair. It was good for a binge.

The danger for Mr Major is that the so-called peace process might now move from stall to forward gear. Ever since the ceasefire, he has been able to pander to the Unionists' insistence on the IRA "decommissioning" its weapons, which he and they know to be a nonsense. By telling Sinn Féin/IRA that he cannot have them at talks before they have handed in their

arms — because the Unionists would simply walk out — he has postponed the moment when he risks one or other side walking out anyway.

Elections to any Stormont assembly, even to an assembly to ratify a new constitution, will tear republicanism, and probably Unionism, apart. Elections risk plunging Ulster back into its old polarisation and instability. Mr Major wants none of this before a general election. "Decommissioning" has been a perfect excuse. Now Mr Clinton, with his Mitchell commission and its February deadline, has produced no solution but merely momentum, and a most inconvenient one. There is nothing the commission can say that will satisfy the two communities, though it could enrage the militant wings of both.

But then it was not Mr Clinton's objective to be helpful. If so, he would not have given Gerry Adams a visa. His objective was to help. He is a politician. Those of

his remarks on Northern Ireland that were not vacuous showed a shrewd awareness that he has no power in the matter. What Mr Clinton was enjoying is what he exorcised George Bush for enjoying, that glorious balm of a quick foreign policy initiative to boost an ailing presidency. For him Northern Ireland has been a low-cost photo-opportunity. Mr Major must struggle to re-establish a plausible inertia that will last at least another 18 months.

Bosnia is what concerns Mr Clinton. Bosnia is what occupied his private meetings with British ministers in London. He knows that Bosnia is the most reckless and extravagant adventure undertaken by Nato in its history. He can see through the media cheerleading that is goading him on — worthy of Randolph Hearst at his most warmongering. The *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and *Time* magazine have all been portraying Europe this past week as pathetic, enfeebled and useless. America by contrast is strong, bold and already successful in the cause of peace.

This travesty of a thoroughly cynical saga in American foreign policy will doubtless find its nemesis in the bodybags. You would not know from the American press that hundreds of Europeans have died in Bosnia while America preached "lift and strike" and did everything to encourage the Muslims and wreck the impartiality of the United Nations mission. You would not know that the Americans broke the arms embargo by aiding the Croats as they ethnically cleansed Serbs in Krajina and then rallied on their erstwhile Muslim friends at Dayton. Now they must send 20,000 troops (albeit to the safest part of Bosnia) to make Clinton's peace bid look good, sucking 40,000 European troops into a year-long expedition devoid of coherent political objective.

This is not foreign policy. It is a gigantic punitive raid worthy of the most hamfisted 19th-century imperialist. Mr Clinton has promised his nation he will be out in a year. President Bush said that of Somalia and Kennedy of Vietnam. When powerful states choose to intervene in the internal affairs of others for domestic political reasons, we should all shudder. The British contingent to the forthcoming War of Clinton's Ego has already expanded from 10,000 to 13,000. What is Mr Major going to say to these men as they depart?

I will lay money these troops will still be in Bosnia by election time, not just in America but in Britain. I will lay money they will leave shortly afterwards. I will lay money the fighting in Bosnia will then recommence. But the timing will have been great.

## Sell O'tape

THE HISTORIC moment when President Clinton publicly shook hands with Gerry Adams in Belfast on Thursday has had more than political reverberations.

The only man to capture the handshake on film, an amateur using his video camera, is locked in a furious argument with the BBC, which secured one of the bargains of the year when it snapped up his footage for just £100.

Initially, Gerry Hagan, who manages a travel agent on the Falls Road, was baffled to be offered even £100 when a BBC representative came into his shop. Why would they want his shots when the masses ranks of the world's lenses had been following Clinton's every move?

It was only after he had signed away his copyright that he learnt that the crush of onlookers had shielded Clinton from the press and he and a sightseer with a stills camera were the only ones to immortalise the moment.

The picture has been beamed across the world and is destined for incalculable repeat showings. Hagan has consulted his solicitor. "When I signed the piece of paper I didn't know it was the only film. But now I think I should have some more money as it is going to be famous," he says.



The BBC insists it has not made a penny from the video and never will. "The BBC has not made any money out of this. We made what we thought in the circumstances was a sensible deal," says a spokesman.

"It is BBC Northern Ireland and BBC copyright. We are not going to hand it to another organisation in the future."

One can only assume all documentaries on the history of the Northern Ireland peace process made outside the BBC will forever lack the handshake.

● Fresh from his defence of the family at the General Synod this week, the Archbishop of Canterbury is now preaching the need to get back to basics. He is suggesting that churchgoers read the Bible.

Writing in this week's edition of the *Church of England* newspaper, Dr Carey says that he longs to "see Anglicans setting an example to the world at large in taking the Bible seriously".

## Bloody game

THE SUGGESTION by William Rees Mogg on this page earlier in the week that it might be time to seek out politicians from the ranks of those, like Colin Powell, who are descended from Edward I, sent genealogists into overdrive. Close study of how his descendants spread across the nation reveals that no less than 16 members of the present government are of Plantagenet stock.

The aristocratic dynasty includes William Waldegrave, Nicholas Soames, David Heathcoat-Amory, Viscount Cranborne, Earl Ferrers and Earl Howe.

"Most of them are descended through Elizabeth of York who married Henry VII," says one expert in such matters. "So they've got Tudor blood coursing through their veins, which is a pretty good political pedigree."

## PG tips

THE P.G. Wodehouse Society has been rebuffed by Mohamed Al Fayed after asking him to become their patron. But now it is some-

what relieved that he didn't take the job for there are suspicions that his knowledge of the great comic writer's work is not what they had suspected.

A polite letter declining the role on the grounds of pressure of work has arrived from Al Fayed. He writes of Wodehouse's genius for invention and how much he admires his books.

But the society is baffled by his claim that he had done his bit for Wodehouse by permitting the Harrods depository to be used for filming a television series which seems to be about the adventures of

a gentleman's gentleman in a city in the west of England: "Jeeves and Wooster."

## Post haste

LORD MENUHIN clearly has great faith in the international mail system. A letter has arrived at the French Embassy in London, thanking the Ambassador for a dinner. It was addressed simply "The French Ambassador, London".

However, its journey was not straightforward. Posted in Norway, the missive landed in Paris on



Danny La Rue and Lily Savage: handbags start to fly



the desk of the American Ambassador, Pamela Harriman. She popped it back in the post and, three weeks after writing, the letter finally reached its destination.

## Hobby horse

NEXT YEAR's edition of *Who's Who* has thrown up some intriguing personal pastimes. New entrant Lenworth George Henry (alias comedian Lenny Henry) describes himself as a "self-confessed funkateer" and lists his interests as "going to nursery and pretending to be a soul singer". But the Bishop of Saskatchewan is the most abrupt. His hobby is "tyrannising the clergy".

## Life's a drag

THE PLATINUM blonde wigs are flying in a screecher of a cat fight between the nation's drag queens. Veteran female impersonator Danny La Rue has torn into the ubiquitous young pretender Lily Savage for being too outrageous. However, transvestite Savage is spitting and kicking back.

The feud began after La Rue, who is about to tread the boards as Widow Twankey in his 40th panimime season, in Wimbledon, singled out Savage after a recent television performance which he thought was tasteless.

"I bet the studio switchboard was



"England are batting! Quick, or you'll miss it!"

jammed with angry viewers," he pouts. Savage, who has been busy with breakfast television and West End shows, replies that La Rue is a classic old dinosaur and "a good example of taking early retirement before you get addled and bitter".

● Going to the Tate Gallery will be a spiritual experience over the Christmas period. The annual *Tate Christmas tree*, created by Cornelia Parker, will be laden with dried fruit and the potent smell of bread will be wafted around it for that special festive aroma.

P.H.S





## A FRAGILE MIRACLE

Lessons for Ulster from the Clinton visit

The hero's welcome granted to President Clinton in Ireland this week exceeded all expectation. It was always hoped that his visit would be a significant moment in the Ulster peace process and would breathe life into the troubled negotiations. But few can have anticipated the emotion which his presence stirred on the streets of Belfast and Londonderry. For a quarter century these streets ran regularly with blood; the people that flocked to greet the President are heart-sick of violence and were glad of the chance to say so in their thousands.

The spirit of the trip was captured by Catherine Hamill, a nine-year-old Roman Catholic whose father died in the Troubles. "My Christmas wish," she said, "is that we have peace and love and that it will last in Ireland forever." What might have seemed sentimental in a different setting was authentic in this context. This small child spoke for a Province whose people long for an end to the bloodshed.

Not even the intervention of the most powerful man on earth can satisfy this longing. As the President said, the people of Ulster are "making a miracle". But the miracle is not complete. The technical obstacles to a lasting settlement are no less formidable than they were when Air Force One landed in Belfast. Before February — the target date for all-party talks — the new international commission on disarmament must draw up a comprehensive plan for the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons. The talks, if they happen, will bring together men implacably divided over fundamental constitutional issues.

The Unionists regard cross-border authority as utterly unacceptable. Sinn Féin sees it as no more than an interim measure. Unionists want a new assembly for Ulster; nationalists say there can be no "internal solution". The violence, meanwhile, continues in the form of punishment beatings, intimidation and sporadic disorder. The

shades of the past lurk angrily in the wings, ready to claim the Province once more.

Nonetheless, Mr Clinton's trip was more than an exercise in political pageantry. It has pushed the peace process forward in the broad sense that it made clear how high the stakes have become and how great the cost of failure would be. The President has invested publicly in the achievement of a settlement. Ulster's leaders know that they will have him to answer to if the peace process falls apart.

Many will ask why the White House should have any say over what happens in Belfast. In theory, they are right. In practical terms, however, Mr Clinton's personal involvement is a useful insurance policy against political mischief. Without America's imprimatur, inward investment to Northern Ireland would wither away. To disrupt peace now would be to court international outrage. Ian Paisley, who acted petulantly during the President's visit, should remember that. So should Sinn Féin's leaders who threaten a return to violence with deplorable regularity.

More important than international opinion is local feeling. Twenty-five years ago, Londonderry was a battlefield. This week, its streets thronged with people who have tasted peace and found it sweet. Republicans have long argued that their greatest advantage is "majority tolerance" — the willingness of the nationalist majority to tolerate IRA activity if not to participate in it. That claim always seemed dubious. Now it seems spurious. The people of Northern Ireland have never been so ill-disposed to the men of violence. They would not accept a return to bloodshed with the resignation they have shown in the past. The structures of support on which terrorism has survived are crumbling. More than any diplomatic agreement, the crowds on Ulster's streets were proof of something new and fragile which must now be nurtured with care.

## HEALTH AT STEAK

Time for transparency over the dangers of BSE

The drumbeat of warnings over "mad cow" disease is ever more insistent and ever more alarming. Sir Bernard Tomlinson, a distinguished authority on brain diseases, has given a public warning that beefburgers, beef liver and meat pies could cause Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD), the counterpart brain condition in human beings of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The Government has called on him to explain his remarks, while publicly trying to play down the growing concern among doctors, scientists and veterinary surgeons about the potential risk to the public from BSE. Colin Blakemore, Professor of Physiology at Oxford, has meanwhile accused the Government of making scientific predictions that were neither fair nor reasonable.

The Government's position gives no comfort. With each tightening of the regulations to prevent the spread of BSE, it has been forced into an almost furtive admission that earlier scare stories had more substance to them than its studied insouciance admitted. There is a widespread fear that the risk is unquantifiable: we do not know how infectious BSE is, and may not find out for at least a decade. The incidence of CJD among farmers and those who have come into contact with cattle may be coincidental. But epidemiologists do not make light of data shrouded in uncertainty. It still seems true that the risk of BSE passing to human beings is minimal, although it has already vaulted to other species. But minimal is not the same as zero. If, in ten years' time, people start dying of an appalling degenerative disease contracted as a result of eating British beef products, the legal and moral liability of the Government will be too ghastly to contemplate.

The public demand for certainty cannot

easily be satisfied. But at the very least the existing regulations should be properly enforced. At present, too many instances have been recorded of sloppiness, negligence and plain fraud in slaughterhouses. The rewards and punishments in this area should be immediately reviewed. All temptation for farmers to curb their losses by turning a blind eye to possible infection should be removed by paying compensation equal to the maximum they could get for the live animal. At the same time the penalty for not properly removing and incinerating all organs suspected of harbouring the disease should be tough: imprisonment or a very large fine.

While the Government dithers, the market may soon enforce its own disciplines. As public worries grow, so too will the pressures on meat retailers, hamburger restaurants and manufacturers of meat products to prove that the beef they use is free not just from infection but from any possible contact with diseased herds. This, inevitably, will put a premium on meat imported from countries where there has been no incidence of BSE and could impose a discount on all British beef. British farmers could swiftly face ruin. It is now in their own interest, and that of the entire meat industry, to eradicate all trace of BSE as soon as possible, whatever the cost.

The Government, for its part, must look seriously at the growing tendency of courts, especially the European Court of Justice, to award very high levels of damages. The punitive element in such awards is likely to be particularly high in cases where a government is shown to have acted with recklessness or disregard to the health of its citizens. Transparency and caution must therefore be the watchwords.

## BOLSHOI BELLY

The invasion of the bodysuit snatchers

Russians are taking up belly-dancing. Not only are the fleshy-faced men who have done well out of the end of the Cold War jaunting to Cairo with their wallets stuffed with Egyptian pounds. But Russian women, too, their place at the bottom of the black economy, are roaming the world to make a living by any means they can. The belly-dancer in the tourist hotel is now as likely to be Naughty Natasha as Foxy Fatima.

This may come as a shock to the tourists. Russian women are world-famous at their native arts and sports of ballet, gymnastics and the circus. But until now Russian dancing has been characterised by en-tré-chats — and by Cossack squatting and kicking-out-alternate-legs that would give lesser people hernias. Until now their dancers have shown no talent for the softer balletic arts of quivering like a jelly in a rising gale and making the tassels attached to either breast revolve in opposite directions. Russian women of the dancing age are muscular and graceful, but lack the vital equipment for belly-dancing. Entrepreneurs on business trips might not have welcomed a recognition across the local colour by a countrywoman who knew their wives at the parish pump of Moscow.

Nor will the arrival of the Russians please the Egyptian professionals of the ancient dance they call *raks sharki*. They are already under attack from religious fundamental-

ists. Like Japanese geishas, their art is deplored by post-feminist scruples and the feeling that middle-class Madame Fahnyms do not put their daughters on the table to shake themselves about, however many dollars may be stuffed into their straps. Cairene dancers are likely to be militant in protection of their closed shop. Last month Fifi Abdu, the prima ballerina of the art, stormed into a Cairo hotel to attack a comic impressionist as he mimicked her act.

Such an old-fashioned demarcation dispute should be absurd in an art as universal as dance, which transcends nationality. The French and Russians may have perfected ballet. But today ballerinas and impresarios come from many countries. Belly-dancing started as a harem art, for women's eyes only, as they waited in the taxi-rank for the pasha. Generations of servicemen passing through the Suez Canal have been foreign connoisseurs of it. Paradoxically it has become a popular dance for Western women wanting to keep fit and slim.

Bagpipes have spread far beyond their native glens to the shores of Pakistan and Japan. The flamenco and the Irish jig, with stamping and swivelling knees, are sisters under the skirt. Dance is a universal and ancient language, from Salome to Svetlana. Race does not matter. Nor does age. There is no room in belly-dancing for restrictive practices or discrimination.

## Queen's gesture to Christian unity

From Mr R. N. Bowes

Sir, As you rightly point out in today's leading article, "Sacred service", the Queen's attendance yesterday at a service in Westminster Cathedral is to be welcomed (see also letters, November 29, 30). By helping to bridge the ancient gulf between Canterbury and Rome, it advances the unity in Britain of the Church of Christ.

However, I believe that divisions between the other Christian movements in Britain remain equally damaging and that the need to redress them is now urgent.

It was largely the patrician attitude of the Anglican Church in the 19th century which created and expanded the Free Church movement here, and we must be glad that this attitude has long since disappeared. But it is an unhappy fact that so many of the ministers of the various churches are prepared to talk about unity without wanting the reality. One remembers with shame the time when, in the early 1970s, union with the Methodist movement was more or less achieved, only to be dashed by the attitude of the Anglican clergy.

I wonder whether such ministers realise the great longing held by many of their congregations for unity. They might also be encouraged by the thought that the thousands of Christian church buildings in this country that are under-used, expensive to maintain, and often decaying could be better deployed.

I would urge all those in authority to realise that unity should now be their chief goal. A blast of the trumpet is needed to wake them up, so that they may move purposefully and swiftly towards the union that Our Lord would expect.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
R. N. BOWES,  
Fulcrum,  
Eton Green, Godalming, Surrey.  
December 1.

From the Chancellor  
of Chichester Cathedral

Sir, Dr Bradshaw calls (letter, November 29) for "an equally warm-hearted move from the Church of England" in response to the invitation extended to the Queen to attend vespers in Westminster Cathedral. Many who will wholeheartedly applaud his sentiments will be unable however to applaud his suggested response.

Simply to reiterate the Church of England's existing policy of sacramental hospitality — and so to repeat an invitation which Roman Catholics who heed the counsel of their own authorities will feel bound to decline — is hardly the most generous of initiatives. May I suggest another?

Every newly consecrated diocesan bishop of the Church of England has to make a personal act of homage to the Sovereign. The wording of this oath has barely changed since the 16th century and it contains more than one phrase which is liable to cause both misunderstanding and offence.

In the present context I have in mind the one which obliges the newly consecrated bishop to acknowledge "that no foreign prelate or potentate has any jurisdiction in this realm". Though this is obviously aimed at the Pope, one is at liberty to ask to what extent Britain's membership of the European Union has already rendered it an anachronism.

In 1990 the Archbishops' Group on the Episcopate, which was chaired by Chancellor Sheila Cameron, QC, and of which I was a member, produced a report entitled *Episcopal Ministry*. It pleaded strongly (pp. 230-231) for a rewording of this oath. In particular, it argued that

in an ecumenical age we consider it important that no impression should be given that acceptance of the spiritual jurisdiction of a universal primacy in a future united Church could not be reconciled with episcopacy in the Church of England.

Five years later on there is still — as far as I am aware — no movement on this question. Is this the opportune moment?

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER GREENACRE,  
4 Vicars' Close,  
Chichester, West Sussex.

From the Reverend T. A. Gardiner

Sir, Dr Bradshaw's encouragement to practical ecumenicity is surely to be followed. I communicate Roman Catholics at the Anglican altar regularly. A French Roman Catholic priest stayed with me one weekend and we shared the consecration, he in French. In the afternoon we shared the baptisms.

What harm is there in this?

Yours faithfully,  
TOM GARDINER,  
The Rectory,  
Greensted, Ongar, Essex.

From the Reverend M. P. Bird

Sir, How sad — doubly sad because it was predictable — that the British Evangelical Council (letter, November 29) should object to the Queen's visit to Westminster Cathedral.

Love and reconciliation are at the centre of the Christian gospel and this gesture warms my heart as an Anglican priest — and I am sure the hearts of thousands of other Christians also. This time love has triumphed over division.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE BIRD,  
61 Beechwood,  
Woodlesford, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Shopping around to curb the car

From Mrs Mercia Mason

Sir, Your leader of November 17 about short car journeys suggested various palliatives, mostly long-term and expensive and none likely to find favour with ordinary, busy car-users, as today's correspondence confirms.

However, there is one course, neither long-term nor expensive, which could make a significant contribution to reducing short car journeys. Many people would be willing, or indeed would prefer, to walk to shops, but cannot carry home what they have bought. What we need is a return to the delivery service which most shops used to operate, especially in country districts.

Even if it were no longer economically viable for each shop to run its own service, those in the same area could surely arrange a co-operative scheme, running a communal van two or three times a week.

Better still would be a return to the order system. When I first came to this large village in the 1960s I could simply telephone for what I wanted and in due course it would be delivered to my kitchen table. I did not have to go to the shops at all; my car remained in the garage, and I was free to do other things.

Even if this system entailed a small extra charge on the household bill, I think most of us would be happy to pay it in return for the benefits it would bring.

Yours faithfully,  
MERCIA MASON,  
Ridge House, Jonas Lane,  
Wadhurst, East Sussex.  
November 28.

From Mr Harley Sherlock

Sir, Martin Pawley may well find the private car essential in Oxfordshire (letter, November 28), but in inner London it is a disaster: polluting the air we breathe, ruining our physical

environment, encouraging crime on our streets by driving out the pedestrian, and (ironically) reducing our mobility.

It is much more difficult to move around the capital than it was 30 years ago, and more difficult for goods to be collected and delivered. Because of the switch of commuters from buses to cars, the people-carrying capacity of the radial roads to central London has actually been reduced by about a third, in spite of highway "improvements".

For the sake of our health, our environment, our economy and our mobility, we should be giving up our cars in London and returning to public transport. The technology of the 1990s should be capable of providing us with an urban transport system at least as effective as the one we had in the 1960s, which got us around better than at present and got heavy shopping delivered to our front doors.

Yours faithfully,  
HARLEY SHERLOCK,  
Andrews Sherlock & Partners,  
(Chartered architects, surveyors),  
5 Cowcross Street, ECI.

From Mr Charles Markuss

Sir, It is a great pleasure to learn from Messrs Jeffrey Rose and Martin Pawley (letters, November 28) that car drivers are not lazy, but are merely using their time to best advantage. This should doubtless be some crumb of comfort as I sit on the bus ensnared in traffic jams every morning, with a nine-mile journey taking 45 minutes due to the scores of car drivers carrying no passengers but making the best of their time in their usual, selfish, way.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES MARKUSS,  
23 Melrose Road, Little Lever,  
Bolton, Greater Manchester.

### Traffic in Edinburgh

From Mr I. Howard Wright

Sir, Magnus Linklater's article on traffic calming in cities, published in your Scottish edition of November 21, strikes a chord. As he points out, the sad thing is when such measures are imposed in a city which does not have much of a traffic problem. Visitors from congested cities in England who are told about "Edinburgh's traffic problems" usually double up with laughter.

I certainly agree that Edinburgh Council is going over the top. Side streets near me in the Blackford area of the city have the entrances narrowed and pavement-width "sleeping policemen" made from cobble stones: not ideal for those with walking difficulties.

I also regard the statement attributed to the chairman of Edinburgh's transportation committee that "car-ownership in Edinburgh is growing faster than anywhere in Europe" as just as suspect as the claim, made a few years ago to further the same cause, that pollution in Edinburgh is worse than elsewhere in Europe. When I was laid low by the pollution in Bottrop, known for having the worst pollution in the Ruhr, I was told by a German: "At least the air here is better than in Edinburgh." How could this apply to a city as windy as Edinburgh, with such wide streets, and so little polluting industry?

Yours faithfully,  
I. HOWARD WRIGHT,  
Flat 23,  
39 Blackford Avenue, Edinburgh 9.

### Prep school places

From the General Secretary of the  
Girls' Schools Association and the  
Secretary of the Headmasters' Conference

Sir, The Government is to be congratulated on its plans to extend the assisted places scheme (report, November 30). Members in our associations will be delighted that more places are to be made available as demand has never been higher. While there are some schools whose present quota is adequate in providing support for pupils, there are others looking forward to offering high-quality independent school education to those from lower-income families in their area.

We are pleased that some excellent academic schools, previously denied participation because of small sixth-form numbers, will now be able to offer places. It is disappointing, however, that the expansion of the scheme excludes preparatory schools, unless they are part of all-through independent schools. We hope a mechanism can be found to include these, as with other schools in the scheme, they would offer great value for money.

Yours faithfully,  
SHEILA COOPER,  
General Secretary,  
Girls' Schools Association,  
VIVIAN ANTHONY,  
Secretary, Headmasters' Conference,  
130 Regent Road, Leicester.  
November 30.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

### Dissecting merits of Turner award

From Professor Michael Sullivan

Sir, Today you quote one of the judges of the Turner Prize, as saying: "The act of putting oil on canvas doesn't make great pictures" — as if anyone in their senses thought it did. "Fundamentally," he goes on, "paintings and objects are all about ideas — so there is no difference". So there is no difference between Rembrandt's portraits and their subjects, between Cézanne's paintings and the landscape of Provence?

Surely it is not the ideas, which may be new or familiar, grand or trivial, which make a great work of art, but the quality of their expression, which is essentially a matter of form, of an intense, private and mysterious interaction between the artist and the medium. That is why the works of Francis Bacon will endure, while those that depend solely on the "idea" become, once their novelty has worn off, valueless.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL SULLIVAN,  
St Catherine's College, Oxford.  
November 29.

From Mr Roy Miles

Sir, Now the hype is over, a prize has been given to a man who cuts animals in half and it is called Art: a woman runner-up exposes her private parts and it is called Art.

Why no comment from the Great and the Good? Also, a deafening silence from the Ministry for the Arts.

Among those at the Tate at the televised event two students were asked their opinion. They replied that if they did that sort of work they would get no marks.

Like the Emperor's clothes, truth will out.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY MILES,  
Roy Miles Gallery,  
29 Bruton Street, W1.  
November 29.

From Mr R. M. Hodges

Sir, There are obviously more views than one as to whether this year's winning entry is or is not a great work of art.

Would it help to clarify that issue if the winning artist, in this and future years, were offered a one-man show at the Tate so that the winning entry could be seen in the context of a wider selection of the artist's work?

Yours faithfully,  
R. M. HODGES,  
68 Eaton Terrace, SW1.  
November 29.

From Mrs Patricia Coward

Sir, Damien Hirst is by no means the first artist to dissect a carcass and be exhibited at the Tate. George Stubbs (1724-1806) did the same but fortunately for posterity left the carcasses at home. Stubbs produced many fine studies from his dissections, which include the *Anatomy of the Horse*.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICIA COWARD,  
Cwm Farm, Coed-y-Paen,  
via Pontypool, Gwent.  
November 30.

### Change of style

From Dr Jack Barford, CEng

Sir, That dentistry is a specialised branch of healthcare, as are chiropody, aromatherapy, massage and many others which aim to improve people's well-being, is beyond doubt. However, I doubt that Dr Ronald Green (letter, November 29) would extend the title to practitioners of all such disciplines.

If Britain is to bring itself into step with the rest of Europe, then should we not more properly restrict the term doctor as a title of a recognised, learned person, not as a vague job description?

Yours faithfully,  
JACK BARFORD,  
12 Victoria Square, Clifton, Bristol.  
November 30.

### El Niño effect

From Mr David Lambert

Sir, The warm ocean current El Niño, which sometimes appears off Peru around Christmas, brings the reverse of the "bumper fish catches" claimed in Science Briefing (November 20). El Niño decimates catches by displacing the cold nutrient-rich water in which the anchovies feed. In the worst events so many fishes and seabirds die that their corpses produce enough gas to blacken ships' paintwork, a phenomenon wryly called, after Lima's port, the Callao Painter.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID C. LAMBERT,  
Spur House, Priory Lane,  
Lamberhurst, Kent.

### Tinkering with words

From Mr Louis Wiseman

Sir, Is it possible that Mr Ian Pittaway (letter, December 1) misread the word "tanking" on the vehicle and that it actually read "Hankering for Yorkshire Water"?

Yours sincerely,  
LOUIS WISEMAN,  
135 Sandgate High Street,  
Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent.  
December 1.

### Penny foolish

From Major U. F. B. Tristram

Sir, My partners and I recently paid corporation tax but disregarded the odd 12p shown on the demand. We have now had two second-class letters from the Inland Revenue asking for the 12p, despite the fact that after the first letter we sent 12p in stamps. This represents expenditure of 38p to demand 12p. Is this the standard of economic wisdom in the Inland Revenue?

Yours faithfully,  
U. B. TRISTRAM,  
19 Mallards Reach,  
Weybridge, Surrey.  
November 27.







## OBITUARIES

## GIANCARLO BAGHETTI

Giancarlo Baghetti, Italian racing driver, died of cancer on November 28 aged 60. He was born in Milan on Christmas Day 1934.

WHEN Giancarlo Baghetti won the 1961 French Grand Prix at Rheims on his first outing in a world championship event, the Italian press was ecstatic. Not only was he the first of his countrymen to win a world championship race since the days of the great Alberto Ascari in the 1950s; he also salvaged the pride of Ferrari, whose works cars all fell by the wayside on a scorching day, leaving him to win in a less powerful prototype practice car.

But the hailing of a new world champion in the making proved premature. Although he was to race for a variety of teams over the next six years, Baghetti's explosive Formula One debut was to be his only world championship victory in 21 races. He was apparently equipped with what it takes to be a top class racing driver — tactical acumen as well as the ability to extract the best from engine and suspension — and had some good races. But further success eluded him. The scion of a wealthy family who had no need to race, after retiring from the track he had a successful second career as a journalist.

The elder son of a Milan industrialist, Baghetti was indulged in his passion for fast cars at an early age; his father gave him a miniature Grand Prix Bugatti with an electric motor when he was eight. Later this was replaced by a single-cylinder petrol engine and Baghetti began to acquire a taste for somewhat higher speeds.

He joined the family business on leaving school and his motor racing career started in 1956 when he drove an Alfa Romeo 1900T at Monza, although this broke down and ended his first season abruptly. In 1957 and 1958 he gained experience in saloon and touring car events with Alfa Romeo, winning the 1958 Mille Miglia. In 1959

he switched to a Fiat Abarth 750, scoring a third place in the Coupe du Salon and a second in the Coupe de Paris at Montlhéry. He then went to Monza to share a works Abarth 1000 in record attempts including a new world record by averaging just over 117mph for 72 hours.

By 1960 he was determined to become a professional driver and, driving a Lancia-powered Formula Junior Dagrada, he won the Coppa Crivellari, the Coppa Vigorelli and the Coppa Fina at Monza. These successes brought him to the attention of the Federazione Italiana Scuderie Automobilistiche (FISA), a body run by a committee of former drivers. The association was looking for potential talent among young Italian drivers and Enzo Ferrari had agreed to make a Formula One car available to it for 1961.

Chosen from a shortlist of four names, Baghetti competed at first in sports car events, finishing second in the 12-hour race at Sebring, Florida.

But his *aurum mirabilis* was 1961. When FISA entered him in a Formula One Ferrari at Syracuse, Sicily, in April that year, he scored a sensational victory over the works Porsches of Dan Gurney and Jo Bonnier in a field that also included the world champion Jack Brabham, Stirling Moss, John Surtees, Graham Hill and Roy Salvadori. The victory was the more remarkable for being achieved on a course which meandered over three miles of ordinary Sicilian roads, flanked along much of its length by walls made of basalt boulders. Unlike the rubber tyre barriers of the modern Grand Prix, these ensured that any form of contact at high speed meant the wrecking of the car and probably severe injury to the driver. But after almost crashing on the first hairpin, Baghetti settled down and, driving with supreme aplomb, carved his way through the distinguished field to win by five seconds.



Baghetti proved this was no flash in the pan ten days later when in the same car he entered the Naples Grand Prix (like the Syracuse race not a world championship event). The Naples race was characterised by a titanic struggle with Britain's Roy Salvadori, driving a Cooper, which was only finally decided when

a stop for a puncture ended the Cooper's challenge.

By the time of the world championship French Grand Prix at Rheims on July 2, 1961, Baghetti therefore already had a reputation among even the best drivers. But no one seriously expected him to win a world championship race on his first outing. The

race took place in torrid conditions. Temperatures in the sun soared to well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, blistering the roads. Cockpit temperatures were estimated to be as high as 150 degrees and many drivers had their overalls hosed with water just before the start to help them keep cool.

It was assumed that the three works Ferraris would make all the running, as they had done so far that season. All that seemed to be in question was which of the Maranello team's three drivers, Count Wolfgang von Trips or the Americans, Richie Ginther and Phil Hill, would take the chequered flag.

Certainly, at various times, each of the Ferraris led the race. But, inexorably one by one, they fell away — von Trips and Ginther being forced to retire through mechanical trouble and Hill, regarded by most pundits as the favourite (he was, in fact, to become the 1961 world champion), fairly soon dropping out of contention.

The second half of the race resolved itself into a 120-mile duel between Baghetti, the Porsche of Dan Gurney and the Lotus of Jim Clark. In the event, Baghetti won the total 249-mile race by a mere car's length from Gurney, with Clark in third place, after certainly the most thrilling Grands Prix since the historic battle between Juan Fangio and Mike Hawthorn in 1953.

This performance seemed to portend a great career, and Baghetti had several fine drives for the Ferrari works team in 1962, being placed but not winning. But he was not re-engaged for 1963. He retired after the 1966 season to take up motor racing journalism with the Milan paper *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Tall, laconic and quietly spoken, Baghetti loved fishing, riding, skiing and tennis away from the circuits. He is survived by his wife Cristina and by a son and daughter.

## DAVID DAVENPORT



David Davenport, dancer, choreographer and actor, died on November 27 aged 73. He was born on December 26, 1921.

*Sleeping Beauty*, the title role in *Job*, as well as appearing with Margot Fonteyn and Robert Helpmann in *Miracle in the Gorbals*, *Wedding Bouquet*, *Dante Sonata* and partnering Beryl Grey in *Les Patineurs*.

DAVID DAVENPORT, who dropped the family name of Pearson when he embarked on his stage career, was born and bred a country gentleman. He became, however, one of the early pioneers of British ballet — and a stage, screen and television actor of distinction during his 50 years on the boards.

David Davenport Pearson was the younger son of a City stockbroker, Elliott Pearson and his wife Dora. He was born at Fairhill, the sprawling family property near Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, where the future Edward VIII, as Prince of Wales, was a frequent visitor.

He was brought up on the traditional values of country pursuits. He rode before he could walk and ran with hare and hounds, a sport he relished until compelled to give it up by failing health. He was educated at Berkhamsted School and Stowe.

Davenport was introduced into more artistic circles by his mother, an archetypal Edwardian gentlewoman, who persuaded her friend, the dancer Anton Dolin, to give ballet lessons to the 12-year-old boy. Knowing her husband was opposed to a dancing career for their son, Dora invited Dolin for the weekend. The famous dancer was forbidden to mention ballet and instructed to talk only of horses and hunting, about which Dolin luckily happened to have some knowledge. When Dolin left Fairhill, Elliott was convinced of the soundness of the ballet world. "Of course David can dance," he told his wife. His son left Stowe after a year to attend the Cone Riparian Ballet School, full-time, in London.

In 1938 Davenport joined the Lydia Kysast Russian Ballet, where his imposing presence (he was 6ft 2in tall) and his virile grace as a dancer, made him the talk of London's theatre world.

He was invited to join the Sadler's Wells Ballet, now the Royal Ballet, in 1942, where his already commanding acting talents coupled with a naturally majestic bearing, led to his being cast as the King in

the International Ballet Company in 1950, he then concentrated on the musical stage, playing in productions of *Brigadoon*, *Kismet*, *The King and I* and *Oh, Calcutta!* as well as in a total of 11 pantomimes at the London Palladium. He also took particular pride in choreographing many ballets for the Joanna Denise Classical Dance Group.

Davenport's film credits included *Carry on Cleo* and *Carry on Henry*, *King's Rhapsody* with Errol Flynn and Anna Neagle, and *84, Charing Cross Road*. On television he achieved national notoriety as Malcolm Ryder in *Crossroads*, Noel Gordon's scheming husband. When the character he played attempted to poison Meg, David was attacked by furious fans in Birmingham. He was also regularly seen in *All Creatures Great and Small*.

His theatre work encompassed a wide variety of roles from Shakespeare to *Charley's Aunt*. In 1938 Davenport joined the Lydia Kysast Russian Ballet, where his imposing presence (he was 6ft 2in tall) and his virile grace as a dancer, made him the talk of London's theatre world.

He was invited to join the Sadler's Wells Ballet, now the Royal Ballet, in 1942, where his already commanding acting talents coupled with a naturally majestic bearing, led to his being cast as the King in

his marriage was dissolved and he is survived by his daughter.

## ROBERT WELLESLEY-COLE

Robert Wellesley-Cole, surgeon, died in London on October 31 aged 88. He was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on March 11, 1907.

IN the 1940s, as the first black African ever to be elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Robert Wellesley-Cole overcame considerable racial prejudice to force his way along a path in which many of his countrymen were subsequently to follow. He was in a modest way a figurehead for his people.

Although from the age of 20 he lived most of his life in England, he maintained close contacts with his own country of Sierra Leone. He was a member of several Colonial Office advisory committees: touring West Africa — Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Nigeria — in this capacity at the end of the Second World War he was to play a key role in preventing the British Government from lowering higher educational standards in countries that were soon to secure their own independence. Thanks to his work, university standards abroad were raised to the same level as those of London University.

A prolific reader, as well as an accomplished pianist and organist, he encouraged cultural development in West



Africa, founding a literary club in Freetown, and later a writers' club. He himself was an enthusiastic writer, penning travelogues of his journeys in West Africa, and novels, one of which was published. He was also a founder member of the students' organisation, West African Society and the editor of its magazine *Africana*.

In England, too, where he

practised as a doctor, he worked for the promotion of African culture and was a prominent member of such organisations as the Society for the Cultural Advancement of Africa, the West African Students Union and the League of Coloured Peoples of Great Britain and Ireland.

Robert Benjamin Agh Wellesley-Cole was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone. His

great grandfather had been a Nigerian prince who, rescued from the clutches of transatlantic slave traders, had settled as a free citizen in Freetown. Baptised a Christian he had chosen for his name that of the man whom he saw as "the greatest warrior in the world", Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke of Wellington. Thenceforth Wellesley became the family name.

His great grandson, Robert, was educated at the Cambridge Senior School (now the Sierra Leone Grammar School) in Freetown where he excelled academically. In 1922 he came second in the Empire in the number of distinctions obtained in his School Certificate. On the strength of this he won a place to study Mathematics and Classics at Fourah Bay College and, on completing his degree, was appointed assistant lecturer in mathematics. However, even while in a full-time teaching career he was furthering his own education: he studied by correspondence course for an external BA in philosophy, which he was awarded in 1928 by London University.

In that same year, Wellesley-Cole came to England to study medicine at Newcastle upon Tyne Medical College. Again, he excelled academically. However, once in post-medical training for surgery, he found himself up against

the suspicions and hostilities of prejudice in a society unaccustomed to living alongside its own colonials. Whereas it would have taken most candidates only three to five years to complete their surgeon's training, it took Wellesley-Cole ten. He persevered, however, and with the help of his former Scottish landlady and later his wife, Anna, he eventually set up his own practice in Newcastle. It was something of a triumph when in 1944 he became the first ever black African elected to the Royal College of Surgeons.

At the beginning of the Second World War, Wellesley-Cole volunteered for the Services, but was not enlisted. Instead, from 1942 to 1958 he became a member of the Colonial Office Advisory Committee, working for colonial welfare in Britain, and promoting economic and medical development abroad. From 1943 to 1950 he was also a member of the Advisory Committee of the Colonial Bureau of the Fabian Society.

All this time he continued to practise as a doctor. At first he was in Newcastle, but with the founding of the NHS in 1948, the roles of general practitioners and consultants were divided. Wellesley-Cole sold his general practice in order to pursue the career of a surgeon consultant. But with British doctors in Newcastle boycott-

ing his acceptance in nursing homes and hospitals, it was a disheartening time for him, especially as his marriage was also breaking up.

In 1950 he decided to move to Nottingham and make a fresh start. Here he married a second time to an African student nurse and with her help, quickly built up both a general and a consultant practice. He also continued to study and passed his examinations in ophthalmic medicine and surgery.

In 1961 he attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace where he was introduced to the Queen. In the same year he was also invited to become a Justice of Peace. It was the first time this invitation had ever been extended to a black African in Britain. However, despite this seeming acceptance into British society, Wellesley-Cole and his family were consistently refused British passports, despite repeated protests and applications, until 1982.

In 1960 Wellesley-Cole published a book about childhood in Africa *Kosoh Town Boy*. After his retirement he continued writing, and his autobiography *An Innocent Abroad* was published in 1988. He was still working on a grammar of his native language Krio when he died.

He is survived by his wife and by their two sons and two

## BERNARD OLIVER

Bernard More Oliver, inventor and radio astronomer, died in Los Alamos Hills, California, on November 23 aged 79. He was born on May 27, 1916.

BERNARD OLIVER described himself as an "electrical engineer" but the man who founded Hewlett-Packard Laboratories, designed the world's first programmable calculator, held more than 60 American patents and pioneered the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence was something more than that. He had, admittedly, studied

electrical engineering in his youth, gaining his master's degree in that subject from the California Institute of Technology in 1936, and going on to complete his PhD *magna cum laude* four years later. But then he went to work for the Bell Telephone Laboratories for the next 12 years, helping to develop automatic tracking radar, television transmission systems and efficient coding devices.

Oliver joined Hewlett-Packard in 1952 as director of research, designing the first programmable desktop computer, the HP 9100, and fol-

lowing it with a series of handheld versions as well as the company's first computer. He became vice-president of Hewlett-Packard in 1957, holding that post until his retirement in 1981.

His horizons, however, were wider. Building on his background in radio physics in the late 1940s, Oliver became interested in radio astronomy as a practical means for the detection of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. His scheme for a phased array of 10,000 steerable dish antennae proved the catalyst for a major feasibility study — Project Cyclops, conducted by Stan-

ford University in 1971.

After retirement Oliver remained involved in the search for other-worldly intelligence, working at NASA's Ames Laboratory in Mountain View, California, and at the Seti Institute. In 1986 he was awarded the National Medal of Science for "translating the most profound discoveries of physical and communication science into the electronic, radio and computer systems that have improved our culture and enriched the lives of all Americans".

His wife died in 1994. He is survived by one son and two daughters.

## MISS KINGSLEY'S TRAVELS.

Miss Kingsley, who has recently been travelling in the Cameroons, arrived in Liverpool on Saturday by the British and African Company's steamer *Bakana*. She furnished to Reuters's Agency a few particulars of her travels.

Miss Kingsley left Liverpool last December for the second time to visit West Africa, chiefly to collect pictorial specimens and study the "fetish" customs of the natives.

After reaching Old Calabar, Miss Kingsley proceeded to the French settlement of the Gaboon, and made it known to the authorities that she wished to explore the gorilla country in the interior and to go up 206 miles up the Ogowe river to N'Djole. After much difficulty, Miss Kingsley got together a canoe's crew of eight natives, and started for the rapids.

The canoe journey was a long one, and nearly a dozen times the craft was upset and its occupants were thrown into the water. The current was strong and Miss Kingsley had several narrow escapes, being saved more than once by clenching the rocks in the rapids and by holding on to them until the natives righted the canoe.

## ON THIS DAY

December 2, 1895

To describe Mary Kingsley (1862-1900) as intrepid is scarcely adequate. Traveller, writer and collector, she visited parts of Africa that were often unpleasant and extremely dangerous.

Miss Kingsley had the most remarkable adventures in the Fangwe country while travelling overland from the Ogowe river to the Rembe. The Fangwes are cannibals of the most pronounced type, always at war with each other, and are one of the few tribes in Africa who eat their own dead. Miss Kingsley had with her three "elephant men", or hunters, of the Fangwe tribe and four Djuma men.

At almost every town the Fangwes stopped the expedition and wanted to eat the three Fangwe elephant men as they were enemies. Sometimes by persuasion, sometimes by

threats of punishment, and sometimes by a little present the men were each time saved.

Miss Kingsley did not come across one burial-place in the Fangwe country, but she found that in most of the native mud huts pieces of human bodies were being kept just as civilised people keep embryos in their jars. On one occasion, when Miss Kingsley was turning out the contents of a sack to find out the origin of a stinking smell, hands, feet, eyes and other human remains tumbled out on to the ground.

The Adjumas, on the other hand, bury their dead in the forest. This was discovered by Miss Kingsley in a gruesome manner. While collecting some botanical specimens she came across several mounds of composed earth and leaves. Thinking they were a new form of anthill, she removed the upper layers with her stick, when dead bodies came to view.

Miss Kingsley refused to relate any gorilla stories, saying that too much doubt was cast upon all such accounts by the public. She saw many large gorillas, but these invariably made off on the approach of the band. One, however, persisted in an attempt to molest them, and was finally despatched by the elephant men. He measured 5 ft. 7 in. in height. Two of his teeth are now in Miss Kingsley's possession.

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## WORKS OF ART FOR SALE

Professor Robert A.F. Chapman of Wales is the best known painter in this country at least. Chapman's thoughts on this matter are confirmed by The Arts Council, Cardiff, Wales. His pictures are successfully selling at the price of the paintings are a £1,000,000. Will people seriously interested also multi-millionaires from The National Lottery please contact David Rubin & Co. Paint Assurance House, 319 Balldale Lane, London, N12. David Rubin will be pleased to show you the paintings of Chapman would like to think those few people who have helped him achieve this success.

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HOUSE BORN & BRED, CATTLE, SHEEP & PIGS, ALL BREEDS, ALL AGES, ALL SEXES, ALL COLOURS, ALL PRICES, ALL QUANTITIES, ALL DELIVERIES, ALL COLLECTIONS, ALL PACKAGES, ALL SERVICES, ALL ADVICE, ALL INFORMATION, ALL ASSISTANCE, ALL SUPPORT, ALL COUNSEL, ALL GUIDANCE, ALL HELP, ALL AID, ALL RELIEF, ALL COMFORT, ALL SECURITY, ALL PROTECTION, ALL DEFENCE, ALL ATTACK, ALL OFFENCE, ALL REVENGE, ALL JUSTICE, ALL ORDER, ALL CHAOS, ALL HARM, ALL GOOD, ALL EVIL, ALL LIFE, ALL DEATH, ALL LOVE, ALL HATE, ALL WAR, ALL PEACE, ALL TRUTH, ALL LIES, ALL KNOWLEDGE, ALL IGNORANCE, ALL WISDOM, ALL FOOLISHNESS, ALL VIRTUE, ALL VICE, ALL GOODNESS, ALL EVILNESS, ALL BEAUTY, ALL UGLYNESS, ALL CLEANLINESS, ALL DIRTYNESS, ALL ORDER, ALL DISORDER, ALL HARMONY, ALL DISHARMONY, ALL BALANCE, ALL UNBALANCE, ALL STABILITY, ALL INSTABILITY, ALL SECURITY, ALL INSECURITY, ALL PROTECTION, ALL VULNERABILITY, ALL DEFENCE, ALL OFFENCE, ALL JUSTICE, ALL INJUSTICE, ALL ORDER, ALL CHAOS, ALL HARM, ALL GOOD, ALL EVIL, ALL LIFE, ALL 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## NEWS

## Clinton asks nationalists to help

■ Bill Clinton completed his hugely successful trip to Britain and Ireland by appealing to Irish nationalists to help the peace process, telling them to show understanding for the position of Ulster's Unionists. In Dublin, the President brought 100,000 cheering people on to the streets to hear a passionate plea for a lasting solution to the troubles. Pages 1, 2

## Heseltine tells of leadership meetings

■ John Major informally offered Michael Heseltine the post of his deputy three weeks before he called the Tory leadership election, the Deputy Prime Minister reveals in an interview. Mr Heseltine tells of a private meeting at which Mr Major revealed that he was going to take on all-comers. Pages 1, 8

## Leeson sentence

Nick Leeson will be sentenced today in a Singapore court after pleading guilty to two of the eleven charges he faced. Page 1

## Major battle

John Major signalled a battle with European leaders when he made clear that he is prepared for isolation over a single currency. Page 2

## Cult members jailed

Two British women who belonged to the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh cult were sentenced to five years for conspiring to murder a senior figure in the US judiciary. Page 3

## Hamburger scare

The Government has called on Sir Bernard Tomlinson to explain his claims that hamburgers could cause the human equivalent of "mad cow" disease. Page 5

## Workfare pilot

Up to 6,000 long-term unemployed people will be made to join a workfare pilot scheme. Page 6

## Beer wars strain the peace

■ When President Clinton stepped into Cassidy's pub and raised the proffered half pint he started a propaganda war between rival breweries. It was assumed that he would be drinking Guinness. But Murphy's claimed that a single keg of its stout had been taken into Cassidy's snug. Page 1

## Church change

The Archbishop of Canterbury endorsed the reorganisation of the Church of England's management structure. Page 9

## Suburbs closed

Two predominantly white areas in Johannesburg are to close off streets with crash barriers as an anti-crime measure. Page 10

## Clinton questions

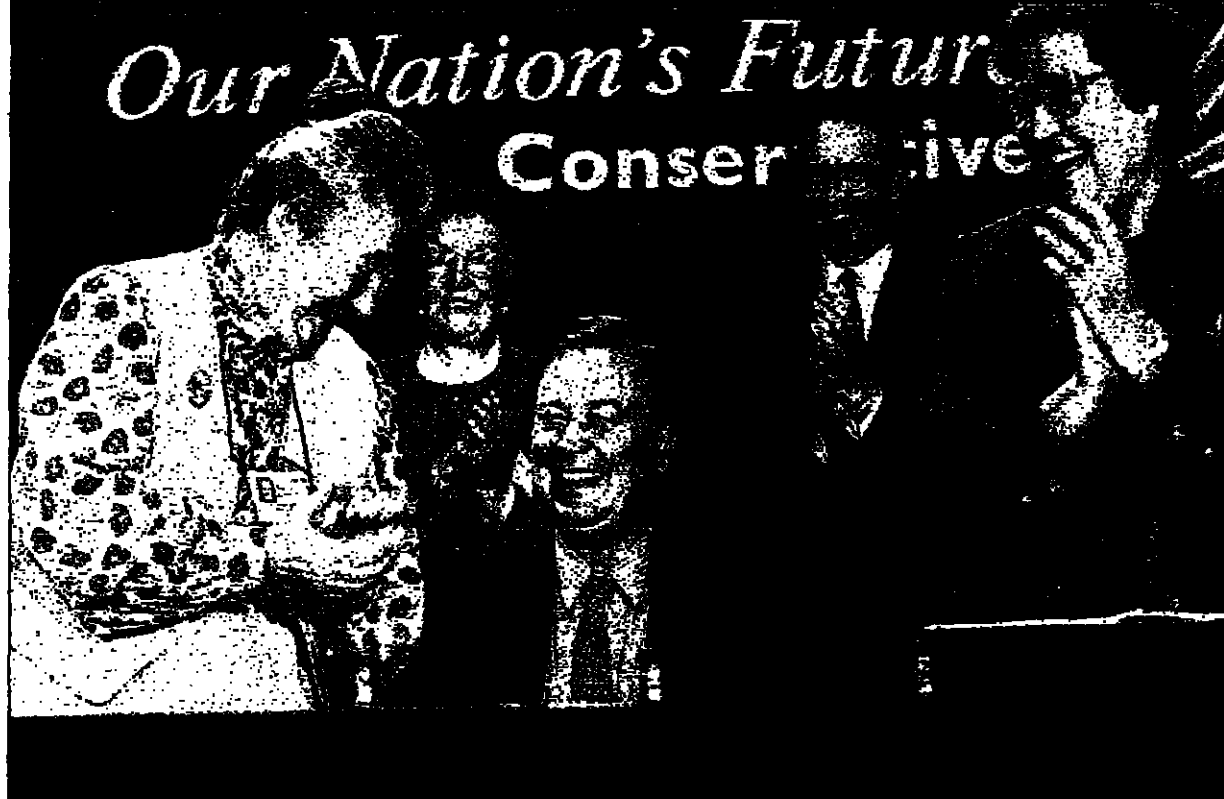
A Senate panel submitted a series of questions to Hillary Clinton about a telephone call she is believed to have made on the night Vincent Foster died. Page 11

## China accused

The Foreign Office summoned the Chinese chargé d'affaires to express British concern at "interference" in Hong Kong. Page 12

## Nato appointment

Nato agreed to appoint Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister and a one-time opponent, as Secretary-General. Page 15



Gillian Clarke applauds her husband, the Chancellor, at the Conservative Women's Conference. Page 6

## OPINION

**Fragile miracle:** The crowds on Ulster's streets were proof of something new and fragile which must now be nurtured with care. Page 21

**Health at stake:** As worries over BSE grow, so too will the pressures on retailers, hamburger restaurants and manufacturers of meat products to prove that the beef they use is free from any possible contact with diseased herds. Page 21

## THE PAPERS

The Haitian leader owes a debt to the world in that the US and the UN helped to restore him to power. That debt will be paid if he facilitates the first democratic transition of power. — Los Angeles Times

## COLUMNS

**Simon Jenkins:** For President Clinton to pretend that the past 15 months in Northern Ireland has anything to do with America is ludicrous but his greater con-trick is that America is pursuing a bold policy in the cause of peace in Bosnia. Page 20

**Max Beloff:** Britain's universities must free themselves of the constraints of government financing. Page 20

## OBITUARIES

**Giuseppe Bagetti,** racing driver; **Bernard Oliver** astronomer; **David Davenport,** dancer. Page 23

## LETTERS

The Queen and the Catholic Church: curbing the car; Turner prize. Page 21

## BUSINESS

**Airports:** BAA, the airport operator, plans to spend more than £4 billion over the next decade in improving facilities at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Page 25

**Brewing:** The long hot summer and strong sales of take-home beer helped Britain's largest regional brewer, to a 13.5 per cent rise in full-year profits. Page 25

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 rose 16.1 to 3680.4. Sterling rose to 82.6 after a rise from \$1.5290 to \$1.5310 and DM2.2094 to DM2.2123. Page 28

## ARTS

**Distressed luvvies:** The arts world is expressing anguish over the cuts in its grants. But the luvvies were naive to expect anything else. Page 17

**Cricket:** England were let down by brittle batting and were all out for 200, 132 runs behind, on the second day of the second Test. Page 48

**Tennis:** Russia and the United States were level at 1-1 after the first day of the Davis Cup final in Moscow. Pete Sampras beat Andrei Chesnokov in the opening match and then Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Jim Courier. Page 43

**Snooker:** Peter Ebdon took a commanding 7-1 lead over Andy Hicks after losing the opening frame of their semi-final match in the UK championship at Preston. Page 47

**Happy family:** Kevin Eason and Alan Coppins on the £420 Budget road tax winners

## SATURDAY MAGAZINE

Kitchen sink Age mellow  
Marzo Pierre White. Page 10  
Blur crazy: Sean O'Hagan  
and stars of Britpop. Page 20  
Labour of love: John Smith's  
widow keeps his memory  
alive. Page 24  
Shopping: All the hot gift tips  
for Christmas. Page 45

## WEEKEND

Libby Purves: How Suffolk  
girlhood is earning its  
spurs. Page 1  
Books: Double helping of  
titles for young readers and  
cooks. Pages 12, 13  
Travel: Skiing, Russia, Bur-  
ma and Iran. Pages 16-21  
Gardening: Dramatic effect  
in a dormant garden. Page 5

## 10 15

The weekly magazine for  
young Times readers  
Saturday girl: How Emma  
Forbes is five and kicking at  
9.15am. Page 6  
Win: The greatest music par-  
ty — four free VIP tickets to  
the Big Twix Mix. Page 3  
Recommended: Best games,  
music, films, books. Page 10

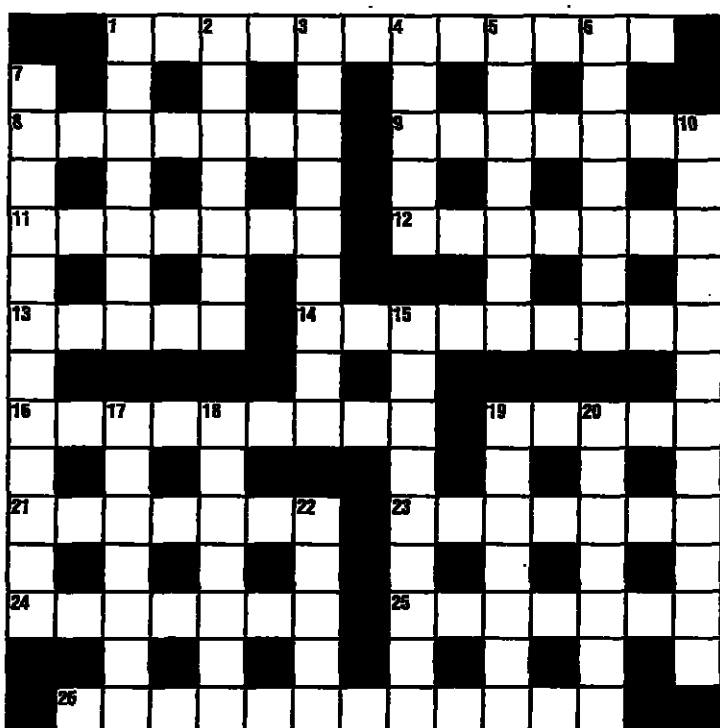
## VISION

Seven-day TV and radio guide  
Cover story: Channel 4 show-  
cases soap operas from  
around the world, as well as  
classic episodes  
Film of the Week: Billy Wilder  
brings sex and drugs to Baker  
Street in *The Private Life of*  
*Sherlock Holmes*. Sunday,  
BBC1, 11.15pm

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,028



Name/Address



## ACROSS

- 1 Clothes collected, hopefully, from weaver and artist (6,6).
- 8 Scholarly line brought profit (7).
- 9 Relative has a right to be doubtful (7).
- 11 Feverish condition of adolescent love initially in girl (7).
- 12 Upright methods used on purpose (7).
- 13 Some other method one measures heat by (5).
- 14 Elderly chap holds degree in fine art (3,6).
- 16 The thinking man's telescope? (9).
- 19 One who joins up to go peacefully with the troops? (5).
- 21 Swimmer injured in the side (7).
- 23 Prematurely conclude dog has something to wag (7).
- 24 Regard relation (7).
- 25 Stamp on work papers (7).
- 26 One won't quite settle up — amend entry when worked out (12).

## DOWN

- 1 Such writing comes as a relief one feels (7).
- 2 Chinese puzzle over butter's taste (7).
- 3 Mad don, perhaps, is a lone voice (3,3,3).
- 4 Drive to find employment for Lebanese group (5).
- 5 Section of *The Ring*? Opera mounted in part of Greece (7).
- 6 Graceful poem is unfinished — one with six feet (7).
- 7 One puts out tongue in an offensive way (5-7).
- 10 Retired officers, cool and lean (8,4).
- 15 Revolutionary government guide (9).
- 17 Emotional thrill for loving and giving boy? (7).
- 18 Hurt look? (4,3).
- 19 The hat one might have to eat (4,3).
- 20 Face shock treatment for non-standard speech (7).
- 22 Increase strength of outfit (3-2).

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,022

PUTONS CHOWMEIN  
NFT OVEN  
MISFORTUNE AHOV  
OCINRUC  
ONTHEDOT BAYEUX  
AEEEL  
OVEN REAPPEAR  
ACWPRAT  
INFERIOR SHED  
GONOMS  
GORDON PROPERTY  
UFOOVNH  
EVIE WASHINGTON  
EHEAEER  
ARBITRAL SPRINT

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,027

SWITCHBACK AMID  
ESAEEOAI  
WRISTMATCH USES  
NSECKEOP  
NARCHITECTURE  
SBPAHEN  
CHARIVARI ORRIS  
OBLLELLAA  
ROYAL RESPONDER  
ELAOCEVY  
BIOGRAPHICAL  
ONSLESTVT  
ACID CAPABILITY  
RANANAOER  
DONA PERCENTAGE

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D Powell, Plymouth, Devon; RCB Cury, Burgess Hill, West Sussex; J K Gee, Norwich, Cheshire; R Hall, Salisbury, Wiltshire; M Seath, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire.

OTIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1995. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9DN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and at Knowlesy Park Industrial Estate, Kington Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP20 9JN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Saturday, December 2, 1995. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

## TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
North Wales	708
South Wales	709
Yorkshire	710
West Midlands	711
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South East	800

Weathercall is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
East of England	733
West of England	734
South of England	735
North of England	736
Scotland	737
Wales	738
North Wales	739
South Wales	740
Yorkshire	741
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South Midlands	799
North East	800

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.45 am

Sun sets: 5.25 pm

Moon rises: 2.40 am

Moon sets: 1.48 pm

Full moon December 7

London 3.55 pm to 7.46 am

Bristol 4.05 pm to 7.55 am

Edinburgh 3.44 pm to 8.04 am

Manchester 3.55 pm to 8.04 am

Perth 4.23 pm to 8.01 am

AA Roadwatch is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

## HIGH TIDES

TODAY

AM HT PM HT

London 9.37 8.50 10.18 8.77

Aberdeen 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Amsterdam 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Belfast 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Birmingham 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Bristol 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Cardiff 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Edinburgh 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Exeter 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Glasgow 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Harwich 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Hull 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

King's Lynn 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Liverpool 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

London 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Manchester 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Perth 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Portsmouth 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Southampton 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Swansea 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Tees 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Widnes 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

Wilton-on-Avon 9.58 8.77 10.10 8.58

## FORECAST

General: Showers in many areas. Early rain in Western England and Wales, heavy in the north. Misty in eastern areas but brighter later. Rain in all areas by evening.

Eastern Scotland will start grey and misty but should brighten for a time. Western areas will be wet with heavy showers on hills. It will be wet at first in Northern Ireland and will brighten for a spell before more rain arrives later.

London, Central S, Central N, SE England, E Midlands: Cloudy with patchy drizzle. Dry and bright for a time but becoming cloudy with patchy rain later. Wind southeast, light to moderate. Max 12C (54F).

E Anglia, NE, E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: Grey and misty at first with drizzle. Becoming dry for a time but cloud thickening with patchy rain later. Wind southeast, moderate. Max 11C (52F).

W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands: Mostly cloudy with rain soon spreading from the west. Rain, heavy on hills. Becoming dry later. Wind southeast, moderate or fresh. Max 12C (54F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather grey with mist and drizzle. Dry for a time but rain later. Wind southeast, strong to gale. Max 9C (48F).

Argyll, N Ireland: Cloudy with rain, heavy on hills. Becoming drier for a time. Wind southeast, fresh. Max 12C (54F).

NW Scotland: Rain, heavy at times. Wind south to south-easterly strong to gale. Max 11C (52F).

Outlook: Rain clearing south-eastwards on Sunday followed by showers. Then mostly fine.

## AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 8 pm: b = bright; c = cloud; d = drizzle; de = dust storm; du = dust; f = fog; fg = fog; g = gale; h = hail; r = rain; sh = shower; s = sea; sn = snow; ss = sun; t = thunder; w = wind; x = variable.

Bournemouth		10	50	du	Winchester		10	50	du
Bournemouth		10	50	du	Winchester		10	50	du
Buxton		9	45	du	Wincoburn		9	45	du
Cardiff		9	45	c	Worcester		9	45	c
Cardiff		9	45	c	Worcester		9	45	c
Chester	X				Worcester		9	45	c
Chester	X				Worcester		9	45	c
Colewyn Bay		8	46	c	Worcester		9	45	c
Colewyn Bay		8	46	c	Worcester		9	45	c
Cumber	X				Worcester		9	45	c
Cumber	X				Worcester		9	45	c
Eastbourne		9	48	du	Worcester		9	45	c
Eastbourne		9	48	du	Worcester		9	45	c
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# Forte poised to fire its defence against Granada

Give or take, Granada's £3.4 billion takeover bid for Forte would appear to be the only game in town. The chips, played with by moguls but paid for by shareholders, are stacked high. Where high rollers gather, class entertainment is invariably assured. The takeover clock, courtesy of Granada's offer document, has already started ticking, today being day nine in this 60-day corporate tournament. It is a fascinating contest and, for City advisers, a lucrative event. The smell of money mingles with the fragrance of megalomania: the stuff of which multi-billion pound/dollar amalgams are made.

Those not overly familiar with moguls and their mannerisms might assume that takeover battles are dour affairs, waged by men in dark grey suits, flanked by accountants adorned in light grey. Not a bit of it. Moguls usually exhibit macho tendencies. The mogul who wishes to acquire a business created, or run, by another mogul,

has the advantage of surprise. In a hostile deal, a sum of money is put on the table. Everyone around the table knows this is merely the first offer; something akin to the initial stages of a bartering operation. Sometimes moguls barter; sometimes they don't. Should they barter and strike a deal, the arrangement is known as an "agreed" takeover. This means that the table is blessed with an agreed sum of money. The mogul who has agreed to sell out "recommends" the offer. The purchasing mogul pays tribute to the management of the company being acquired and the mogul who recommended other shareholders to sell is often invited to join the board or play an ongoing role as a "consultant."

Agreed bids are perceived as more sensible than hostile bids because, before the bartering starts in earnest, the moguls can discuss their respective operations and chat about strategy and suchlike. Agreed bids are not as glamorous as hostile bids, nor are they as profitable for City advisers. The

hostile bidder realises that there is no need to discuss strategy with the management of the "offeree" company. Such confidence often relates to the fact that many moguls are under the impression that they are geniuses. In fairness to moguls, they are keenly encouraged in such beliefs by City advisers and other hangers on. Silken-tongued merchant bankers, cheque-wielding clearing bankers, turn-seeking fund managers, Savile Row-suited spin doctors and cliché-riddled financial journalists all play their peculiar little roles. One way or another they egg moguls, magnates, tycoons, entrepreneurs and their ilk on, and on, and on; sometimes to the bid too far. Such was the scenario in the Eighties when the likes of Alan Bond (Bond Corporation), John Gurn (British & Commonwealth) and John Ashcroft (Coloroll), to name but three, walked, and then stopped walking, on water. But I digress. Back to moguls and hostile bids. An initial sum, the sighting shot, so to speak, is



MELVYN MARCKUS

placed on the table and then the moguls insult each other. In Granada's £3.4 billion takeover bid for Forte — a calculation that excludes Forte's £1.3 billion of debt — the insult period has proved particularly memorable. Gerry Robinson, chairman designate of Granada, appears obsessed with the fact that one of Sir Rocco Forte's pastimes is shooting. Much has been made of this, for reasons

best known to Robinson and his advisers. Should a man who shoots pheasants be toppled? Should he be toppled by a man obsessed by the fact that other men shoot pheasants? Fascinating! Granada's offer document focused on Forte's "poor performance" which, it claims, arose from Forte's "misguided strategy," "failure to meet targets," "failure to exploit good brands" and "changes in direction." Sir Rocco has countered that Robinson is a "cyclical surfer" and has accused his adversary of taking advantage of companies on the upswing of a business cycle to feed his "megalomania."

As the two swap such niceties, the City waits on Forte's defence document which, as the ticking clock dictates, must be produced by the end of this week. Forte's document may, or may not, include a profit forecast for 1995-96. The consensus among City analysts is for pre-tax profits of around £175 million, indicating earnings per share of 13p. All things

considered, it would be surprising if Forte's profits are not struck north of this. More interesting are analysts' estimates of an outcome of some £240 million for 1996-97 to give earnings per share of 18p. Forte's shares at 342p are currently showing a 16p premium over Granada's terms, a premium that reflects the City's thinking about moguls and sighting shots. Robinson's tête à tête with Granada's principal shareholders in Scotland are understood to have gone well. Key to the eventual outcome of the bid may well lie with Mercury Asset Management, which holds a 12.75 per cent stake in Forte and a not dissimilar block in Granada. It is unlikely that Granada embarked on its £3.4 billion spree without sounding out MAM, although Robinson refuses to comment on discussions with fund managers before or after the bid.

Other institutions with stakes of more than 3 per cent in Forte include Clydesdale Bank (5.3 per cent), Capital International, Pru-

dential and Gartmore. Robinson insists that Granada's budget hotels, motorway service operations and contract-catering interests are proof enough of the company's ability to manage Forte. Cynics argue that there is little if any synergy between the two companies. Robinson, according to Forte's camp, is intent on cashing in on the upswing in the hotel cycle via a bid that has been launched two years too late. Analysts also point out that Granada's grand strategy runs contrary to an international trend which has seen hotel conglomerates demerge in order to permit core businesses to focus more effectively. Marriott, ITT, New World, based in Hong Kong and Hilton, are all cited on this count. Forte's camp is clearly set to challenge Robinson's vision of creating a new UK conglomerate. Granada has criticised Forte's retention of its "trophy" hotel interests such as the Savoy stake. But is Forte merely a "trophy" company for Granada?

## First fall in industrial activity for three years

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BRITISH manufacturing activity fell in November for the first time in three years, pointing to a further easing of inflationary pressure from industry and fuelling expectations of an interest-rate cut in the near future.

The latest soundings of purchasing managers running down stock levels which had risen because of slow sales. This means a rocky few months ahead for manufacturing output. The good news is for inflation; fragile demand means that it will be harder for manufacturers to pass on any cost increases, meaning lower producer and retail prices.

The stock market rose sharply, interpreting the evidence of a slowdown as heralding a base rate cut. Many in the City expect a 0.5 per cent cut on December 13 when the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

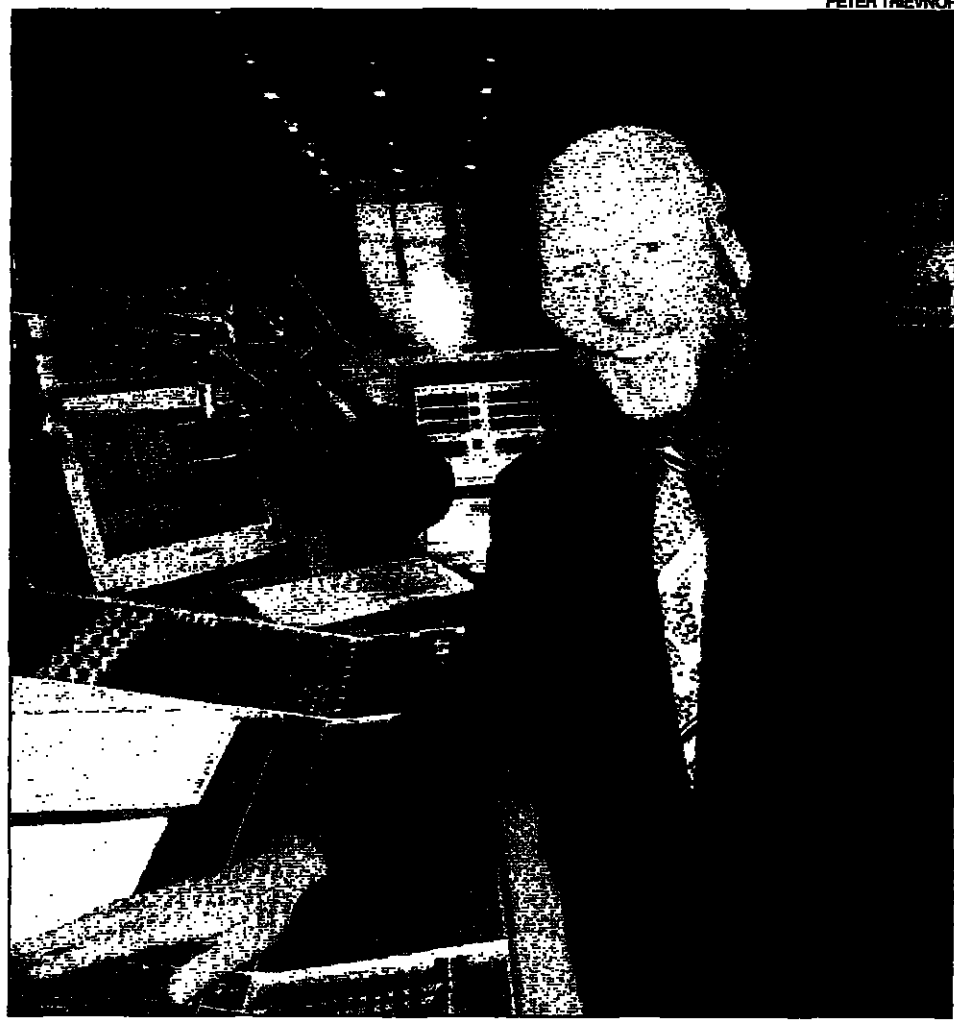
Adam Cole, an economist at James Capel, disagreed. He argued that "further evidence that the Chancellor's growth forecasts are too optimistic is required before rates come down. This points to early next year as the most likely time for a rate reduction". The purchasing managers' index stood at

49.6 in November compared with 50.5 in October. Analysts said that the dip below 50 may show that the trend in manufacturing is now towards contraction.

Meanwhile, trade figures for September showed Britain's visible trade gap narrowing with the rest of the world to £972 million. However, economists pointed out that this was due largely to a jump in exports to North America that month.

Jonathan Loynes of HSBC Markets said September's improvement "is likely to be short-lived and can be viewed as little more than a respite from a worrying trend." Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said: "There is no room for complacency, as the trend suggests that the whole world visible deficit is widening."

Manufacturing activity in America fell for the fourth straight month in November and the rate of decline accelerated from October. US purchasing managers said yesterday. The National Association of Purchasing Management said that employment in the manufacturing sector fell for the ninth consecutive month and that, while inventories declined, the rate of decline was slower than in October.



Chris Wright, chairman of Chrysalis, at Heart studios, where losses continue

## Start-up costs slow Chrysalis

THE cost of investing in new businesses deepened the underlying losses at Chrysalis, the music and media group headed by Chris Wright (Eric Reguly writes).

Start-up costs of the two Heart radio stations, a film distribution business and the Echo record label led to an operating loss of £7 million in the year to August 31, against a loss of £4.2 million the year

before. A one-time profit of £11.5 million on the sale of assets, notably Chrysalis's 19.5 per cent stake in Metro Radio, allowed the company to report a pre-tax profit of £1 million, compared to a loss of £3.9 million.

Chrysalis warned shareholders to expect further losses as money is pumped into businesses such as the new Heart radio station in

London and Galaxy Radio, the regional dance music station in Wales and the West of England. Heart and Galaxy, it said, "will generate significant losses during a period of intense marketing activity as the stations are established."

A final dividend of 2.75p will be paid on April 9. There was no dividend last year. The shares closed unchanged at 346p.

## Brierley is set for sale of Brown Shipley

BY PATRICIA TEHAN  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GUINNESS Pear Group, Sir Ron Brierley's investment vehicle, is close to a sale of Brown Shipley Stockbroking (BSS), the private client stockbroker, with Albert E Sharp, the Birmingham-based broker, thought most likely to buy.

Sharp's bid, estimated at £5.5 million to £6 million, is believed to be higher than any other offer for the business.

GPG put the stockbroker on the market only two and a half years after it bought it for £5.6 million. Since then the business has been restructured, through the acquisition of Stirling Hendry, the Scottish broker which has offices in Glasgow, Inverness and Dundee, and the sale soon after its acquisition, of the asset management business and unit trust businesses.

This is the second time the firm has been put up for sale since its acquisition by GPG from Kredietbank Luxembourg. It last tried to sell BSS 18 months ago, when the price-tag was closer to £10 million. Since then, business has turned down.

In the first half of this year BSS suffered a profits fall after stock market trading volumes failed to match the levels of the first half of 1994.

The sale of Brown Shipley Stockbroking Limited includes Brown Shipley and three regional stockbrokers, Stirling Hendry, Roy James, based in Birmingham, and Wilshire Baldwin, operating from Leicester.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Bankers Trust wins \$69m lawsuit

BANKERS TRUST NEW YORK said the commercial court of the High Court in London ruled in the bank's favour in a \$69.2 million lawsuit against the Indonesian company PT Dharma Sakti Sejater. Bankers Trust had sued Dharma and the court ruled that Bankers Trust must be reimbursed for its legal costs.

The case involved swaps contracts between Bankers Trust and Dharma that were entered into during the early part of 1994. Bankers Trust said the contracts were made under the terms of the International Swaps Dealers Association master agreement. Bankers Trust, however, maintains that Dharma sought to escape from the contracts by alleging that Bankers Trust misrepresented the trade and breached duties it assumed to advise Dharma.

### Cater Allen setback

SHARES in Cater Allen, the financial services group, closed 10p lower at 443p after a fall in pre-tax profits for the six months to October 31 to £9.4 million (£9.58 million). David White, deputy chairman, said money markets had not been as favourable as in the same period last year. Earnings fell to 21.4p (23.7p) and an 9p (8p) interim dividend has been declared. He predicted a more active money market over the next six months and said the company's offshore business would continue to grow.

### Blue Boar buyout

BLUE BOAR MOTORWAYS, the country's largest independent motorway service-area operator, has been acquired by managers and employees for £25 million. Its sites are on M1 at Watford Gap and Rotherthorpe, near Northampton, with a third, newly opened Annandale Water, on M74 in Scotland. The company has 560 full and part-time employees. The buyout was led by Dennis Watson, managing director, and Gloria Stephenson, personnel director.

### Glaxo sells Hazeline

GLAXO WELLCOME, the pharmaceuticals company, said it had sold Hazeline, its consumer products business in Singapore, to Unilever for £95 million in cash. Hazeline, which manufactures and markets skin care items such as moisturisers and cleansers, reported an operating profit of £4.1 million on sales of £32.5 million for the year to December 1994. Glaxo said it is selling the company, inherited when it bought Wellcome this year, as a non-core activity.

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## Fall in land cost aids McCarthy

CHEAPER land is boosting the margins of McCarthy & Stone, the sheltered housing group, which doubled pre-tax profit for the year to £9.2 million despite a fall in volumes (Carl Mortimer writes).

Reservations and completions were up on last year but John McCarthy, chairman, said he was cautious about the trading climate. McCarthy sold 915 units in the year to August 31, down from 936, but gross margins rose from 27 per cent to 33 per cent, due mainly to reduced land costs. The company finished the year with 1,141 completed units, up by a third, and resumes payment of a dividend with 2p for the year. Net cash balances were £8 million and shareholders' funds were £90.9 million.

Tempus, page 28

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.16	2.00
Austria Sch	16.82	15.12
Belgium Fr	48.61	44.31
Canada \$	2.196	2.058
Cyprus Cyp	0.741	0.698
Denmark Kr	8.30	8.40
Finland Mk	7.17	6.52
France Fr	8.08	7.43
Germany DM	2.37	2.18
Greece Dr	365.00	391.00
Hong Kong \$	12.50	11.50
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.1200	4.4700
Italy Lira	2555.00	2401.00
Japan Yen	170.80	161.80
Malta	0.522	0.507
Netherlands Gld	2.638	2.408
New Zealand \$	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	10.36	9.55
Portugal Esc	243.50	225.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.27
Spain Ptas	166.00	163.00
Sweden Kr	10.69	9.89
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.75
Turkey Lira	ref.	790.00
USA \$	1.630	1.500

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Ascot goes on the trail for acquisitions

ASCOT HOLDINGS, the property, pubs and hotels group, formerly Control Securities, is seeking acquisitions, having completed several disposals (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Howard Dyer, chairman and chief executive, said: "We will continue with our strategy of reducing borrowings through divestments, while at the same time examining acquisition opportunities."

Mr Dyer's remarks accompanied a rise in pre-tax profits to £8.8 million (£2.1 million) in the six months to September 30. The increase reflected a rise in operating profits from £7.8 million to £11.2 million together with several one-off factors. Disposals cut net debt to £65.1 million, leaving gearing of 93 per cent against 154 per cent six months ago. Net assets rose to £70.2 million. There is no dividend.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

FOR Kenneth Clarke, the accusation that his budget was boring is water off a duck's back. More serious, he knows, will be if there is no dividend in the form of lower interest rates. The City, business and the Tory party are all looking for a base-rate cut. If the economic data over the next 10 days show the economy still in the throes of a slowdown, they will get one. And Clarke's slow-burner of a budget will begin to look a lot more convincing.

Business Focus in The Sunday Times tomorrow

## The British Investment Trust PLC.

The British Investment Trust aims to achieve long term capital growth from a portfolio of international investments and secure for shareholders regular increases in dividend.

### Company Half Year Financial Highlights

	1995	1994
Net Asset Value Per Share	253p	231p
Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	£789m	£712m
Dividend Per Share	2.2p	2.1p

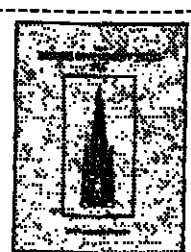
To: The Secretary, The British Investment Trust PLC, Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD.

Please send me a copy of the 1995 Interim Report.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## A WORKING WEEK FOR: DAVID NORMAN

## Jet-set headhunter rides out the turbulence

A six-figure salary and six-figure bonus limit the sympathy that Jon Ashworth is able to muster for one of Britain's leading recruiters

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

THERE are times when David Norman must wish he was back driving round San Francisco in his Volkswagen Beetle. Fresh out of Eton, and a dab hand at rackets and tennis, he worked in a supermarket and did the rounds as a travelling salesman. It was California in the 1960s. Life was fun.

In England, in 1995, life is not quite so much fun. Norman is locked in an unseemly tussle with his former comrade-in-arms, Miles Broadbent, the other half of Norman Broadbent International (NBI), one of Britain's better-known headhunting firms. Broadbent has announced his intention to retire in February, when he turns 60. Norman has taken charge until a successor is appointed. Simple enough, you might think.

But it is far from simple. Broadbent, it emerges, is gagged from talking to the press. He is not allowed to discuss his imminent retirement. Norman insists, at first, that their parting has "not been acrimonious", but does involve the usual difficulties associated with a change of senior personnel. Broadbent gets wind of this, and insists that the reference to their parting "not being acrimonious" be struck out. Most peculiar. Broadbent, one can deduce, is not about to be sent on his way with the customary gold carriage clock.

This is not the end of Norman's troubles. He recently boarded the morning Concorde flight to New York with the ink scarcely dry on a deal to buy Goodman Graham, an information technology recruitment specialist, for a tidy £7 million. "I sat next to the chief executive of a multinational company who is in the midst of looking for a global IT director," he tells me, declining to name his fellow passenger. Norman could anticipate a fee of £80,000 for handling such an assignment, and has every reason to lick his lips. It would certainly pay for a few more trips on Concorde.

But headhunting is a fickle business. By coincidence, I establish that his fellow passenger was Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP, the world's biggest advertising combine. Worse, it seems that the post of global IT director has already been filled. Norman and Sorrell were at Harvard Business School together, but the connection proved fruitless on this occasion.

Let no one tell you that headhunting does not pay. Norman earned £679,000 in the past financial year, putting him well ahead of captains of industry running multimillion-pound organisations. Gerry Robinson of Granada, locked in his £3.4 billion struggle for Forté, earned just £602,000 at the last count. Norman's package included a bonus of £289,000. Headhunters charge between a quarter and a third of the first year's package for their services.

Norman would argue that he is worth every penny. He secured Sir Ian MacGregor for British Steel in the days when it was losing £750 million a year, and later found Howard Davies to replace Sir John Banham as Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry. He led the search for Davies's successor, and came up with the unusual choice of Adair Turner. Boardroom shake-outs at Cable and Wireless and BT will have Norman and his rivals slaver-like wiles.

"One of the things that always most distresses me is the British inclination to denigrate success," says Norman, 54, and standing 6ft 1in in his immaculate brogues. "We're very good at it. It's fashionable to be satirical about success, and also to be forever admiring of the gifted amateur, who doesn't appear to have to apply his talent too strongly to be successful. I admire more the American attitude, which is just encourage talent for all it's worth. Stretch it to the limit, and apply it to the task at hand, and you'll then succeed."

Norman fell into headhunting by accident after a long career in industry, and has all the right connections in a profession where the old school tie is all-important. He was Captain of House at Eton, holds an MBA from Harvard, and is an accomplished sportsman, playing rackets and tennis, and enjoying a golfing handicap of 12. His great uncle, Montagu Norman, was Governor of the Bank of England from 1920 to 1944. His grandfather, Ronald Norman, was chairman of both the BBC and London County Council. His father,

Mark, who died 11 months ago, was past chairman of Gallaher and Wiggins Teape, and enjoyed close ties with the National Trust.

It was the British Steel search that earmarked Norman for greater things. He joined Russell Reynolds, another headhunter, from Norcross, the conglomerate, in 1977, and set about finding a troubleshooter for British Steel. Sir Ian MacGregor, a Scottish engineer working in America, was more than up to the task.

"He fundamentally changed the way that nationalised industry was run in this country, and gave a lot of new pointers to British business about the way new management concepts should be applied," says Norman. "It had all sorts of ramifications for the executive search industry: the fact that Government was using executive search to bring the most talented, relevant, people for one of the biggest jobs in this country."

Norman was back pulling the strings when Howard Davies joined the CBI, but insists he had no hand in his subsequent appointment as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. "We had nothing whatever to do with Howard Davies moving from the CBI to the Bank of England. He was directly approached and directly moved, although I, of course,



David Norman, in front of *The Intellect and Valour of Britain*, is distressed by the British inclination to denigrate success and be satirical about it

know Howard very well." Norman was at the CBI conference to observe his latest protégé, Adair Turner, in action. Britain, he insists, is not lacking in talent. "It's all about achieving a competitiveness in the global economy of the world. Do we have the brains, the applications to do it? Yes we do. We've certainly got the brains. I think one of the biggest challenges in this country is then to apply those brains to the task at hand."

By everyday standards, Norman leads a fabled life. He has an apartment in Belgrave and a 140-acre estate in Hampshire, complete with its own squash and tennis courts, and golf driving range. There is a home in Portugal. He and his wife, Diana, have three daughters and a son, Jonathan, who is currently with JP Morgan in New York.

But life does not always run smoothly, as current events suggest, and Norman's story is not complete without a reference to the Charles Barker affair. Charles Barker, Britain's oldest advertising and public relations business, bought NBI for £9.3 million in 1986 — not a bad deal, one might think. But it agreed to take only half NBI's profits, leaving the rest in a pool for executives. Headhunters like their bonuses. The upshot was that Miles

Broadbent earned £622,053 in 1988 — almost as much as the total distribution to shareholders. Perhaps he does not need the gold carriage clock.

Norman, who became chairman and chief executive of Charles Barker, duly renamed BNB Resources, attracted the wrath of the shareholders. To this day, some find it hard to forgive. One unflatteringly describes him as: "A man of great charm, very well disguised, and mind-boggling arrogance, less well disguised."

Others simply say he is fond of self-promotion.

Norman has little time to dwell upon such gibes. His week is the usual headhunter's whirl of dinners, meetings and jet-set travel. He is forever flying to New York or Chicago — NBI has offices in both — and has just returned from a two-day hop to Frankfurt and Paris. "I always fly British Airways," he says. "They jolly well look after you." He holds a BA premier card, guaranteeing the red carpet wherever he goes. No coincidence, perhaps, that Lord King sits on the NBI board.

For all his Englishness, Norman's mother is American, and America runs like a motif through his life. As a student in the early 1960s, he drove from coast to coast in his VW Beetle, and ended up working on a checkout counter in San

Francisco. He did a stint with Merrill Lynch on Wall Street, then returned to California to work as a travelling salesman. "I would drive across the Bay Bridge at five o'clock in the morning and visit the bakeries."

Whatever the tensions at NBI, Norman appears outwardly confident that all will work out for the best. As he puts it: "I am not a short-term operator, and what I really much aspire to seeing happen is that Norman Broadbent International will, over the next five years, emerge as the company most respected in the major centres of the world for top-level executive search, in the same way that McKinsey is in the field of top strategic consulting."

The weeks ahead could prove highly entertaining.

## HIDDEN ASSETS

## Rome inspires Baltic home with foundations in the sea

Three-and-a-half years after an IRA bomb struck terror in the heart of the City, the Duke of Kent inaugurated a new and fitting home for a revitalised Baltic Exchange, the world's oldest and premier shipping market.

The Baltic Exchange — motto "Our word is our bond" — traces its origins back to the original Virginia & Baltic Coffee House, where merchants, shipowners and ship managers would meet in London's Threadneedle Street as far back as 1744. The 18th-century merchants met in London coffee houses to make arrangements for the transportation of goods by sailing ships.

Their 20th-century counterparts, led by Jim Buckley, chief executive, communicate electronically, some of which were unknown 250 years ago, and arrange for them to be transported by bulk carrier and oil tanker.

The Baltic generates huge amounts of money for the City from fees paid for foreign-owned goods being transported from one country to another by a vessel which is neither owned nor flagged by Britain. The Exchange handles more than half of the world's bulk chartering business and London is dominant where ship sale and purchase contracts are concerned.

The new Baltic Exchange at 38 St Mary Axe is yards from its previous home. The new Exchange, which was opened to members in May, contains treasures and artefacts, and has fine architect-

Philip Pangalos looks at the new base of the world's oldest shipping market

tural points and historical links with commodity trading and shipping.

The Grade II listed building was erected in 1923 as the City headquarters of Spillers Industries and is a classic example of the work of the Edwardian architect Sir Edwin Cooper. Special architectural merit is attached to the ground-floor entrance hall and reception, offices on the first and second floors and

an outstanding mahogany panelled boardroom.

The previous and original St Mary Axe site, the Baltic's home since 1903, was devastated by an IRA bomb in April 1992 that killed three people and destroyed or severely damaged much of the 13,500 square feet in the old marble-clad Exchange with its walnut floor.

The new St Mary Axe building was bought by

Incheape for its headquarters from Spillers 40 years ago. It was sold to Trafalgar House in 1987. The Baltic bought the refurbished 41,500 sq ft building a year ago, swapping it for the old site and about £2.7 million. It has since spent a further £2 million.

Sir Edwin Cooper's inspiration for the building came from classical Roman architecture. The palatial marble reception area has been restored, as have the five decorative features seen in the mouldings and the marble oculus in the first-floor balcony above the main reception hall. A staircase at the front of the building is new, as are two oak-panelled lifts. Externally, the Portland stone is embellished and there are ironwork panels on the second-floor exterior. Original "hideous" strip lighting was replaced by art deco copies based on Sir Edwin's designs.

At the centre of an impressive boardroom sits a huge table and panelling in rare Cuban timber, with a carved frieze band in limewood. The chimney breast is panelled with deep, line-carved drops and swags showing fruits, a windmill and a sailing ship, reflecting the trades of Spillers. Stained glass windows show the coats of arms of various cities.

There are also meeting rooms, including the Churchill room, which includes a portrait of the former Prime Minister and a foundation stone that he laid in the old Exchange in 1955, as well as an elegant long case clock, dated circa 1700.



Jim Buckley perches on the Exchange's first-floor oculus

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# New high for index as rumours boost oil shares

A LATE flurry of activity among the big oil producers enabled the rest of the equity market to end the week on a high note.

Reports, later denied, that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia had died, pushed oil prices sharply higher on world markets and had a favourable knock-on effect on shares of the oil companies.

It was reported that the 73-year-old King Fahd had been admitted to hospital after feeling unwell and was currently undergoing tests. Despite the later denial, the rumours gave a much needed fillip to the sector. BP rose 10p to 525p, Shell 12p to 817p, and Esso 12p to 63p. Brokers calculated that the rise on the price of BP was worth 3.5 points on the index. In the event, the FT-SE 100 index finished at its best of the day, with a rise of 16.1 points to its highest level ever of 3,680.4.

Prices had started the day on a flat note, reflecting a 30-point fall overnight in New York. But confidence returned as the Dow Jones reclaimed most of that fall in resumed trading last night.

There was heavy turnover in Grand Metropolitan, the food and drink group, just 24 hours after the group unveiled a small decline in profits last year.

SBC Warburg and Cazenove jointly placed a total of 18 million shares with various clients at 43p. The shares formed part of a 52-million parcel of shares belonging to the group's employee share scheme and purchased by SBC Warburg. It stretched turnover in the shares to 75.5 million.

Heavy turnover was also recorded in Asda, the supermarket chain, as the price rose 3p to 104p with more than 6 million shares traded. In recent weeks there has been talk of a possible bid from Becta, 10p up at 57p. Most brokers would be happy to dismiss that idea, but many of them are convinced there is something going on.

The news that the Office of Fair Trading is in the pay television market hit the shares. They finished the session 38p down at 397p, wiping out all this week's gains. The inquiry will focus on the supply of programming to cable companies. It follows complaints by several of the cable companies themselves.



John McCarthy and Matthew Thorne at McCarthy & Stone

Earlier in the week, BSkyB announced it had clinched a £125 million deal to televise exclusively the Endelshen Football League. The group already has the rights to screen the Premier League. Brokers said the inquiry had come as a surprise.

As to be expected, early attention focused on British Biotech, this week's high-

lyer. It surged above the £20 level, double the amount it started the week at. On Thursday, the price climbed £5 to finish at £15.01, with brokers claiming the shares still have further to run.

This followed news of positive clinical trials carried out on its new cancer treatment showing a success rate of at least 25 per cent. It is reported that overnight in New York the price touched \$67, or £49.50, such was the clamour

for the shares. Back in London, the price eventually settled £27p higher at £16.75 as less than 2 million changed hands, valuing the company at more than £800 million. The warrants also leapt 140p to £11.55.

Glaxo Wellcome marked time at 872p after disposing of its Singapore consumer products business, Hazeltine, to

changed at 694p, covering its NISV vaccine. Peptide Therapeutics, this week's newcomer, advanced another 13p to 25p, stretching its lead since trading started on Thursday to 31p.

Intercare marked time at 50p following the appointment this week of John Parker as chief executive. He replaces Peter Cowen, who resigned after buying out the group's optical business.

McCarthy & Stone, the retirement home builder, firmed 3p to 68p after electing to pay its first dividend in three years. It came as the group reported a 23 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year to £9.2 million. John McCarthy, chairman, says he is optimistic about prospects despite the dull backdrop to the housing market, which received no boost from the Budget.

Spring Ram, the bathroom and kitchen equipment supplier, rallied 12p to 20p in the wake of a profits warning earlier this week. A number of directors have taken advantage of the weakness in the price to top-up their holdings. First-time trading in CMG, the management services group, got off to an encouraging start. Offered at 290p, the shares started life at 334p and briefly touched 346p before closing at 339p, a premium of 49p, as more than 5 million changed hands.

GLT-EDGED: The yield curve steepened for the third day in a row as the short end of the market outperformed longer-dated issues. Shorts have been buoyed by the prospect of a cut in interest rates while longs have been concerned about the upward revision of the PSBR.

Prices generally edged higher in early trading, taking their lead from firmer performance overnight by German bunds and US Treasury bonds.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt closed £1/3 better at £109 3/4, as 49,000 contracts were completed.

In Treasuries, 8 per cent 2013 was five ticks harder at £102 1/2, while among shorter-dated issues Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose £7 1/2 to £104 1/2.

NEW YORK: Blue chips extended their gains on Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 23.48 points higher at 5,097.97.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5097.97 (+23.48)
S&P Composite	607.11 (+1.74)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18882.10 (+86.65)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9662.55 (+49.21)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	477.71 (+0.34)
Sydney:	
ASX	2163.20 (+4.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2260.66 (+17.62)
Singapore:	
Strait	2130.51 (+2.40)
Brussels:	
General	8063.46 (+66.77)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1620.91 (+7.37)
Zurich:	
SIX Gen	707.20 (+5.93)
London:	
FT-SE 100	3680.4 (+16.1)
FT-SE 250	3063.7 (+4.8)
FT-SE 350	1821.3 (+6.7)
FT-SE 1000	1457.96 (+3.94)
FT-SE 1000	1457.96 (+3.94)
FT Non Financials	1887.87 (+3.79)
FT Fixed Interest	114.12 (+0.19)
FT Govt Sec	95.65 (+0.23)
SEAO Volume	536.59
USM (Dow Jones)	191.06 (+1.01)
US\$	1.5310 (+0.0002)
German Mark	2.2121 (+0.0028)
Exchange Index	82.62 (+0.11)
Bank of England official call (4pm)	
LECU	1.1995
ESR	149.8 Oct (2.2%) Jan 1997-100
RPI	148.7 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997-100

## RECENT ISSUES

Abstract H1 Inc C (100)	98
Arion Procs	99
BZV EQS Tesco Ltd	25
Benfield & Rea	103
CTA (250)	339
Cash Conv Int	110
Cox Insurance	110
David Glas (60)	68
East Surrey NV	448
Gardner (1)	143
Heritage Baths (125)	171
Hoare Govett Sml C	96
Jasmin	103
London Town	80
Martin Currie Japan	94
Martin Currie Jp Wt	30
Peptide Therapies (200)	251
Premium Under C	125
Revelation Pric	99
Schroder Asia Pz	99
Toni Cobleigh	216
Troader	44
Vero Group	272

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Leds n/p (34)	7
Coridian n/p (60)	30
Frpt Leds n/p (100)	13
Mayborn n/p (210)	38
Pilkington n/p (155)	37
Roxbury n/p (3)	10
Snt & Vine n/p (97)	10

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISKS:	
MAID	274p (+30p)
Biotech Inv	270p (+32p)
Chromosome	309p (+17p)
Bank Scotland	285p (+13p)
Scotia	588p (+25p)
Unipol	775p (+25p)
FALLS:	
Weir	201p (-12p)
De La Rue	643p (-17p)
Hill Smith	423p (-11p)
Huntley & Pals	775p (-16p)
Caterham	434p (-16p)
Amersham	874p (-24p)

## Closing Prices Page 41

## TEMPUS

### Drug overdose

THE spectacular rise of British Biotechnology shares has ignited the sector in much the same way that the flotation of America's Netscape earlier this year propelled the fledgling Internet industry. Biotech shares added almost half their value again on Thursday and kept going yesterday, closing in London at £16.75, four times their lowest price for the year.

Biotech's climb is surprising, founded as it was on the clinical trial of a cancer drug which may never reach the market, but the share price surge of Biotech's smaller rivals is positively baffling. Celtech, Chiroscience and Scoda all made significant gains.

While there are signs that the sector is shedding its casino image, the shares are still best known for their roller-coaster performance. Typically, such companies make no

money and their share prices rise and fall on the basis of rumour and the results of clinical trials and their success or failure in achieving regulatory approval for drugs. Because the marketing of drugs is also extremely expensive, biotech companies are also at the financial mercy of larger companies who demand their pound of flesh in joint ventures and partnerships. In the US, many smaller players are disappearing because of lack of funds. Consolidation is the industry theme.

Biotech's rivals did nothing to warrant their own rise this week, and investors should not be surprised if a subsequent dose of bad news puts the sector into reverse. British Biotech's own shares plummeted by more than a quarter in January after the clinical trials of batimastat, then its most promising anti-cancer treatment, proved disappointing.

### Wolverhampton & Dudley

WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY Breweries makes half of its trading profit from managed pubs. Shareholders may justifiably feel that the landlord has been pouring short measures for some time.

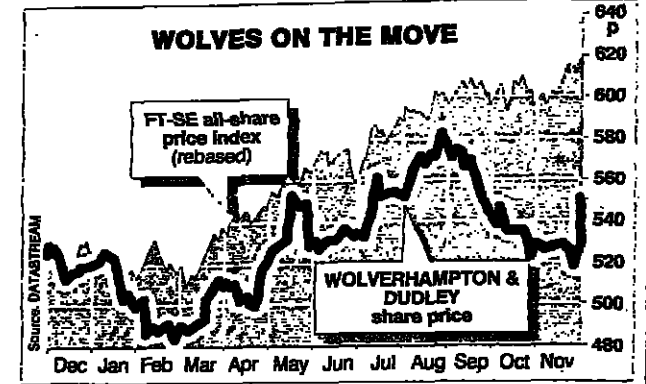
But this year the hot summer and a second-half margin recovery helped Wolverhampton to lift full-year pre-tax profits to £43.5 million. The advance was flattered by a £3.1 million exceptional gain after the sale of the Crown & Raven hotel chain, but, excluding the property gain, 7 per cent is respectable growth from the largest regional brewer.

The summer heatwave boosted beer volumes in pubs. Take-home sales were also buoyant, in spite of the price competition from cross-

Channel booze crises. Completion of the pub refurbishment programme helped to lift gross margins from 16 per cent in the first half to 20 per cent but investment will continue. Wolverhampton has expansion plans, aiming to add 15 new pubs next year to its existing estate of about 1,000 pubs. It will also re-launch 44 existing outlets

and refurbish another 130 pubs. However, strong cash flow should keep gearing to 15 per cent.

Analysts are looking for full-year profits of about £42.4 million, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 12.7 times. A discount of about 15 per cent to the market seems harsh in the circumstances.



### McCarthy & Stone

THE housing market has yet to turn but McCarthy & Stone is seeing no shortage of demand for sheltered housing. After suffering losses totalling some £60 million in the recession, McCarthy is now earning healthy gross margins and is intent on raising the tempo with medium-term plans to raise volume from 900 units to 1,500 units.

The gross margin recovery is about land costs. McCarthy's expensive plots are gradually being built and sold off, allowing selling margins to improve in spite of the lack of improvement in prices. Meanwhile new land is being acquired at prices almost 30 per cent below the level at which land for existing stock was purchased.

McCarthy needs to keep stock on its books as buyers will not purchase from plan but the sales trend confirms a

requirement for more investment in working capital as McCarthy sold 915 units last year despite having stocks of only 864 units at the beginning of the period. If McCarthy can maintain its margins and sell the 1,000 units it is currently holding as stock, profits could reach £10.5 million in the current year.

McCarthy has the balance sheet to cope with expansion and the main drag on sales has been the slow planning process. Years of weak housing markets will have created some pent-up demand for sheltered housing for elderly people. However, given the scale of McCarthy's disaster after the 1980s boom, investors will be thankful that this recovery is not too rapid.

### Ascot

Ascot, the renamed Control Securities, could soon be on the acquisition trail. A manager from NatWest Ventures has been hired with a brief to

scout the market. Ascot's chief executive, an alumnus of Williams Holdings, is looking for manufacturing businesses to bring into the group while he sells off the property and leisure assets.

The ambition is to turn Ascot's £70 million of shareholder funds into cash but the going is slow. Turnover in the pub and brewing sector is making it difficult to sell Ascot's weaker public houses while the best are being held back for a portfolio sale.

However, Ascot is determined to get book value for its assets, which were valued in 1992. The company managed to increase profits, although £6 million of the £9 million result came from the repurchase of bonds. The strong equity market is pushing large companies to shed non-core businesses but prices are high and Ascot could probably wait until it has more money to spare.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

## MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current price	Week's change	Notes
British Biotech	£16.75	Positive clinical trials
South Wales Electricity	£11.06	+81p... Reflects offer from Welsh Water
Calderbank	49p	+16p... Third profits warning
Vodafone	233 1/2p	+44p... Brokers visit
Capital Radio	513p	+46p... Further consideration of figures
British Aerospace	333p	+46p... Stake in Orange
ASW Holdings	102p	+38p... Profits warning
De La Rue	643p	-17p... Set to drop out of FT-SE 100
Wolves & Dudley	551p	+31p... Record profits

## COMMODITIES

## LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
999-999	1011-1010				
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## MEAT &amp; LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## CRUDE OILS (London &amp; OPEC)

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## MONEY RATES (%)

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## DOLLAR RATES

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## WALL STREET

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## FT-SE VOLUMES

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## LIFE OPTIONS

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				

## GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird &amp; Co)

Dec	Mar	May	Jul	Oct	Dec
1011-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				
1010-1010	1010-1010				



## INSURANCE 33



Take some of the risks out of dangerous sports

## WEEKEND MONEY

## TRUST WATCH 35

Investments over there... and over here



# Swings and roundabouts for savers

Every Budget has its winners and losers.

Sara McConnell looks at some who benefit

**B**uilding society savers paying basic-rate tax lurch from swing to roundabout in dizzying succession this week. Less than 24 hours after the Chancellor announced a 5 per cent cut in savings interest tax in the Budget, societies cut mortgage rates by up to a third of a percentage point and warned savers that similar cuts could follow.

Accountants and financial advisers say the impending rate cuts underline the urgent need for savers to make maximum use of the new tax break on savings income and minimise the effect of any further rate cuts on building society and bank interest. Married couples and pensioners especially may be able to rearrange their investments so that none of their income from investments is taxed at more than 20 per cent.

On Tuesday, Kenneth Clarke cut the tax automatically deducted from savings interest by 5 percentage points to 20 per cent for both lower and basic rate taxpayers. He made it clear this was a first step towards a 20 per cent basic rate of tax. The Government is also desperate to encourage people to save more so that they do not have to turn to the State, particularly in old age.

From the beginning of the next tax year, April 6, the

## WEEKEND MONEY



lower rate of tax on savings income will apply to building society and bank deposits, gilts, corporate bonds, unit trusts and purchase life annuities. An estimated 14 million savers will keep an extra £5 for every £100 of interest they earn. Savers who only pay tax at the lower rate of 20 per cent will no longer have to reclaim tax deducted from their savings. Non-taxpayers will have to reclaim the 20 per cent tax deducted.

Savers who have their interest paid gross automatically, on Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds or National Saving certificates for example, will also pay only 20 per cent tax when they later declare the interest on their tax return, as long as they are lower or basic

rate taxpayers. But higher rate taxpayers will continue to pay tax on their savings at 40 per cent unless they re-plan their investments, advisers say. From next April, anyone with taxable income (including investments and pensions) of more than £25,500 will be a higher rate taxpayer. The Revenue will treat savings income as the top "slice" of income.

Married couples where one is a higher rate taxpayer and the other basic rate or less should transfer savings into the name of the basic rate payer. Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, says. This instantly cuts the tax bill in half, from 40 to 20 per cent. Couples have been able to transfer investments like this for several years but according to Charles Levent-Scrivener, of Towry Law, men in particular have been reluctant to make over investments to their wives, notwithstanding the tax advantages. Mr Levent-Scrivener says: "It is becoming even more valuable and important to use tax allowances to the full after this Budget."

Pensioners with little or no occupational pension who rely on income from investments should also take advantage of the lower tax deductions. Even if their total income brings them into the basic-rate tax bracket, they will still only pay a maximum of 20 per cent tax.



## Granny Bonds offer more

**N**ational Savings received more than 2,000 calls the day after the Budget from older people keen to take advantage of relaxations in the rules governing Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds (Sara McConnell writes).

The qualifying age for the bonds has been reduced from 65 to 60 and the maximum holding has more than doubled from £20,000 to £50,000 (£100,000 for joint holdings).

The bond pays 7.5 per cent gross as monthly income, as long as the investment is held for at least five years. This could start to look tempting if saving rates continue the fall that they started this week. Accountants believe that it is no coincidence that a 7.5 per cent return on £50,000 translates into £3,750, which almost exactly mirrors the new personal allowance of £3,765. Anyone with no other income would be able to set all the return from an investment in a pensioners' bond against the allowance, thereby paying no tax at all on it. Older pensioners and married couples will have extra age allowances, enabling them to earn an even larger slice of tax-free income.

The Chancellor said this week that he wanted to help people to keep more of what they earn and save. He is hoping this will mean less pressure on the public purse, particularly for the elderly.

Justin Urquhart-Stewart, planning manager of Barclays Stockbrokers, says: "The new incentives to save are all part of the subsidy that because of an ageing population and the retreat of the nanny state people will have to save more themselves. What he is subtly trying to say is that the Government does not have enough money to pay for everything."

Letters, page 39

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

## Glimmer of hope on the home front

**T**he Chancellor's refusal to help the UK's ten million homeowners in this week's Budget produced its own unexpected reward.

Leading lenders took the view that his failure to offer any help to alleviate the problems in the housing market, and his pronouncements about inflation, heralded an eventual fall in base rates.

They moved swiftly in anticipation of a 0.5 per cent cut, and by the end of the week, most of the UK's biggest mortgage institutions had trimmed their rates by between 0.2 and 0.4 per cent.

The Halifax kicked off on the day after the Budget with a cut from 7.99 to 7.74 per cent — a monthly saving of just over £9 on a £60,000 repayment mortgage and about £11 on an endowment mortgage. Abbey National followed by chop-

ping 0.2 per cent. Its borrowers will now pay between 7.69 and 7.79 per cent depending on the amount borrowed. The biggest cuts were experienced by borrowers with Nationwide, Northern Rock and Yorkshire.

Nationwide cut its rate to 7.65 per cent — the second lowest rate for 25 years.

Only in January 1994 were rates a shade lower at 7.64 per cent, while Northern Rock cut 0.4 per cent to 7.59 per cent, below the rate in January last year, and Yorkshire cut its rate from 7.85 to 7.59 per cent.

A borrower with a £60,000 mortgage with the Nationwide will see his monthly repayments fall by just over £10 if he is on a repayment mortgage, and by just over £13 if he has an endowment or interest-only mortgage. Other lenders that cut rates included the Wool-

wich, Alliance & Leicester and the Bristol & West. But lenders gave warning that interest rate cuts meant savings rate cuts.

These latest rate cuts, coupled with the Chancellor's package of tax cuts, will make home ownership more affordable. The TSB house affordability index uses post-tax income, house prices and interest rates to calculate how much buying a house costs per £100 of take-home pay. The TSB expects this to drop to its lowest level for two years when the interest rates and tax cuts begin to bite. The last index showed buying a house cost about £28.70 per £100, down on the previous quarter's measurement of £30.40. A recent survey carried out by the Abbey National claimed houses were now more affordable than they had been for decades. It compared the cost of

buying a house with that of renting. It found that, on average, buying a house was £20,000 cheaper than renting a house over 25 years. Charles Toner, Abbey National managing director, retail division, said: "With interest rates at an all-time low and greater stability in the housing market, buying a property with a long-term view is a cheaper, more secure and viable option."

But in spite of the pointers to a sort of recovery for the housing market, problems still remain for the more than one million households with negative equity. Woolwich Building Society said 11 per cent of all borrowers have negative equity, with an average value of £7,000. A 2 per cent rise in prices would lift only 200,000 people out of this trap.

CAROLINE MERRELL

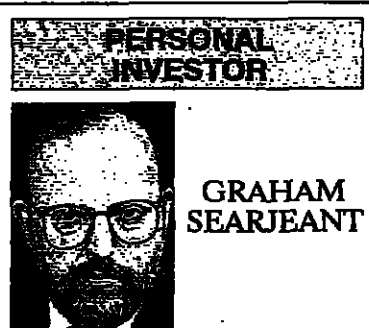
## Better way for long-term care

**T**he Chancellor, like many others, is trying to come to grips with the rising cost of long-term care for infirm elderly people. But if the Budget is any guide, he is flailing around to no good purpose. Cutting retired people's standard of living is a counsel of despair. Persuading them to take out hugely expensive long-term insurance policies they may not need — the so-called "partnership scheme" — sounds like a silly lottery. Such schemes will give incentives almost as perverse as the present crude savings grab.

The answer is to provide people with incentives to save right through their retirement. And the way to do that is to fix maximum charges to the individual for long-term care on the basis of the maximum income their assets might produce. In other words, people should be asked to pay up to the amount that an actuary calculates would exhaust their capital at the time of death.

The Treasury needs to take a cool look at the tax regime for savings. That review should produce wider benefits to savers and to families, increasing their range of choice. To achieve that, the tax regime should give incentives for people to make prudent choices, not assume we are all untrustworthy spendthrifts.

Public spending hawks have now formed an alliance with life assurance companies to devise another specialised tax-advantaged product for long-term care to add to pensions, their best seller. Instead, they should look at the pensions regime and see why it does not meet this emerging new need. Pensions establish an annuity, or its equivalent, at the point of re-



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

irement and thereby extinguish capital. By diverting savings into pensions, the tax regime hinders the spread of inherited capital across social groups because pensions die with us. That is why only one in 30 estates was liable to inheritance tax even before the Budget, and why the tax is not quite the "issue for Middle Britain" the Chancellor claims.

Pensions are also too inflexible to cope as people live longer, expect a higher quality of life, and cannot rely on extended families to provide it. More of us will need expensive long-term nursing or residential care. Final salary pension schemes pre-empt savings, but do not allow for a step up in income if and when this need arises. The present system, scarcely altered in the Budget, acts as a disincentive to retain other savings because the capital can be claimed as payment for care.

These distortions could be eliminated under a new regime for charging for long-term care. Instead of taking sav-

ings, the State should set a charge limit equal to the income from a person's assets if they were converted into an annuity when they entered long-term care. The older you were, the higher the percentage of your assets this would be, just like buying a real annuity.

That would leave the family choice. They could sell assets and buy an annuity. Or they could provide the sum in different ways: by handing over income and cashing enough savings to make up the difference, by building up loans against assets, or by potential inheritors paying the excess over the income the assets produce.

**W**orking back from this principle should lead to wider reforms of savings and pensions. In any kind of money-purchase pension, such as personal pensions, you need never be compelled to take an annuity. Instead, savings could be accumulated in a form that allowed you to draw any annual income you chose up to the amount an annuity would bring. Even those who draw a conventional company pension would have an incentive to save part of their pension in the early years instead of blowing it.

The long-term care issue threatens to upset people's retirement plans and cut their standard of living in the early, healthy years. If the shadow annuity is introduced as the measure of people's ability to pay for long-term care, resolving this issue can increase choice, help more to leave inheritances, and bring overdue reforms to an increasingly obsolete pensions system.

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Helen Pridham looks into the Chancellor's idea for a two-stage option

# A new twist on pensions

Among the ideas floated by the Chancellor in the Budget this week as a way of tackling the growing crisis over the funding of long-term care was the use of company pension benefits to help to cover the cost. His proposal was that members of occupational pension schemes should have the option of a variable pension, taking a smaller pension initially in exchange for a larger pension in later years, when people are more likely to need long-term care.

The idea has been given a muted welcome by the pensions industry. John Moret, of Winterthur Life, says: "The problem with the proposal is that it begs the question about the size of the pensions pot initially. Most people are not putting enough into their pension schemes to satisfy their ordinary retirement requirements, let alone pay for long-term care."

Linton Penman, of Lincoln National, believes the Chancellor's proposal has raised more questions than it has answered. Lincoln National had developed its own answer to funding long-term care out of pension benefits in 1991, based on insurance principles. Mr Penman says: "The whole point of the insurance solution [funded by a reduction in pension] is that it is simple to operate and secures high benefits for those who actually need them — and at relatively low cost."

The company scheme was later disallowed by the Inland Revenue. Similar schemes to the variable pension option are available to

holders of personal pensions, having been given the green light by the Government in last year's Budget. These can be used to achieve, in effect, what the Chancellor is now suggesting for occupational schemes, that is that a lower pension can be taken to begin with, followed — with luck — by a higher pension later.

The main reason for introducing these schemes, however, was not to fund long-term care but to ensure personal pension holders were no longer forced to buy their pensions at retirement when annuity rates might be low. They allow the purchase of the annuity to be deferred until a more favourable time, or by age 75 at the latest.

But Mr Moret points out: "These are not mass-market products. You really need a pension fund of at least £100,000 for a pension withdrawal scheme to make sense."

"Among personal pension holders, probably less than 5 per cent currently fall into this category."

Similarly, it is unlikely that the vast majority of occupational pension scheme members will be able to afford to take a lower retirement income even in the short term.

The National Association of Pension Funds is not against the Chancellor's idea. Bill Birmingham, of the association, says: "We have no problem with members being given more choice about how they take their pension benefits as long as any decision to forgo pension is voluntary."

## WEEKEND MONEY



BUDGET UPDATE

### THE FORGOTTEN ARMY

ELDERLY people buying annuities to pay for nursing home fees were neglected by the Chancellor. Although he announced that benefits from long-term care insurance policies would now be tax-free, whether paid direct to the policyholder or a care provider, he did not extend tax exemption to annuities. This inconsistency in approach was pointed out by Sandy Johnston, manager of Commercial Union's 3rd Age Initiative, which offers special enhanced-payment annuities for old people in poor health entering care. He says: "There was already inequality because payments from these annuities are taxed on the basis that the investor has the same life expectancy as a healthy person which is plainly not so. We believe payments from these annuities should be tax-free."

### THE PRESENT CHOICE

PEOPLE retiring today who have personal pension plans have the choice of taking a lower pension now in exchange for what could be a higher one in the future. Even those unable to do that need to look carefully at their options at retirement. Falling interest rates recently have resulted in decreasing annuity rates. This means that people reaching pension age now who are forced to buy annuities will be locked into these rates for the rest of their retirement. With a "pension withdrawal" scheme, pensioners can defer buying an annuity until a more favourable time, or age 75 at the latest. In the meantime, they can still take an income from their pension fund, which can remain invested. Another alternative is to take phased retirement, buying annuities in stages.



A flexible approach? A lower pension first, followed, with luck, by a higher one later

## A do-or-die offer on inheritance

Anyone wanting to benefit from the changes to inheritance and capital gains tax proposed in this year's Budget must survive until April 6 next year or die before the next election, according to Clark Whitehill, the firm of accountants.

Changes to inheritance tax are normally implemented as soon as they are announced. But Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, proposes raising the inheritance tax threshold from £154,000 to £200,000 at the start of the next tax year.

Plans to extend retirement relief from capital gains tax apply immediately.

However, Mark Lee, a tax partner with Clark Whitehill, says that if Labour wins the next election, any tax benefits gained in this Budget could be wiped out. "This is a great Budget for people who die in the next 18 months," he says.

Patrick Connolly, of Chartwell Investment Management, agrees. He points out that the Labour Party has already stated that it intends to introduce proposals to secure the effective taxation of wealth, particularly when it is transferred through gift or inheritance.

Mr Connolly says: "Faced with conflicting political signals and a general election no more than 18 months away, the temptation for taxpayers is to do nothing. But doing nothing could well result in you repenting at leisure after a new Labour government has introduced such changes as it is now openly talking about."

The proposed raising of the inheritance tax threshold means that a further 7,500 families will escape paying inheritance tax in the 1996-97 tax year. Whereas 21,000 estates have paid death duties in the 1995-96 tax year, only 15,000 are likely to pay inheritance tax in 1996-97.

The Chancellor has also proposed that all holdings of shares in qualifying unquoted companies should become exempt from inheritance tax from April 6. This measure should help to

reduce the selling of family businesses to raise money for death duties.

The exemption is expected to affect only 350 estates in the 1996-97 tax year, costing the Government just £5 million. To qualify, the deceased must have owned the unquoted shares for at least two years.

Previously, only holdings of 25 per cent or more were exempt from inheritance tax. Smaller holdings received 50 per cent tax relief. No change has been made to the rate of tax relief on qualifying holdings of quoted shares, which remains at 50 per cent.

In a further move to aid business, the Chancellor has proposed that retirement relief from capital gains tax should apply to people from the age of 50, a reduction of five years. This tax relief will apply with immediate effect to anyone aged 50 or more who disposes of the whole or part of a business, or shares in a "personal" company (one in which an individual holds at least 5 per cent of the shares). An individual does not actually have to retire to benefit.

You can normally earn capital gains of up to £6,000 (£6,300 for the 1996-97 tax year) before paying tax at your marginal rate. But retirement relief enables the first £250,000 capital gains to be taken tax free, while any gains between £250,000 and £1 million receive 50 per cent relief. For someone realising gains of £1 million, this produces a tax saving of £250,000.

Mr Clarke hopes that by lowering the age limit for retirement relief, more businessmen will be encouraged to release capital from existing concerns into new projects.

An individual may benefit from retirement relief any number of times until his or her total relief is used up.

But Mr Lee says: "I won't be advising my clients to postpone anything that they could do before the next election."

JILL INSLY

## Decent rates of return for safety-first savers

With inflation promising to remain below 3 per cent for the foreseeable future, savers no longer need to rush into equities to beat inflation. In recent years, banks and building societies have brought out competitive accounts with decent rates of return, while National Savings continues to offer some attractive products for the cautious saver. None of these will set the world on fire, and only National Savings' Premium Bonds could turn you into a millionaire overnight. But many of these vehicles offer a very safe way to save. Unless otherwise specified, all rates are gross.

### NATIONAL SAVINGS

NATIONAL Savings has long been the home of the cautious saver. Income bonds currently pay 6.5 per cent for investments under £25,000, with a minimum first purchase of £2,000. Investors must give three months' notice to cash in the bonds, and will receive only half the promised interest if they cash in their bonds in the first year. Investment accounts are similar to one-month

notice accounts. They pay 5.25 per cent for amounts under £500 and 5.75 per cent for larger sums to £25,000. Ordinary accounts pay a standard rate of 2 per cent on minimum deposits of £10. The first £70 is tax free. Customers can take out £100 on demand at any post office, or can request up to £250 at a chosen post office.

### INSTANT ACCESS

AS A rule of thumb, the easier it is to get to your money, the lower the rate of return. Most instant access accounts do not start paying decent returns until your balance tops £2,000. An exception is Co-Operative Bank's Pathfinder account which pays 5.9 per cent gross provided you deposit £100 a month into the account or start with a lump sum of £5,000. The account comes with Visa/Delta card, but no cheques. According to Moneyfacts, this is one of the highest paying instant access accounts on the market at the moment. For balances above £2,500, Skipton Building Society's 3 High Street instant account pays 5.6 per cent, while

Northern Rock's Go Direct account pays 4.85 per cent. Both accounts have minimum withdrawal limits.

### HIGH INTEREST

INTEREST on most cheque accounts is laughably low, so savers who regularly leave large sums lingering in their cheque account should consider a bank or building society that pays a more reasonable rate. It is worth looking beyond the big high street names for the best deals. For balances above £2,500, UDT pays 6.25 per cent. Kleinwort Benson's high interest current account pays 6 per cent. Chelsea Building Society pays 5 per cent, while the Bank of Scotland's Money Market account pays 4.50. For smaller amounts, Woolwich Building So-

ciety's current account has the best rate, at 3.20 per cent on balances above £500.

### POSTAL ACCOUNTS

REGULAR postal accounts are similar to standard instant access accounts, but they lack the convenience of branch banking. If you want to make a deposit or withdrawal from a postal account, you will have to use the postal service unless your account comes with a cashcard. Because of the slight inconvenience (and the bank's savings on branch overheads), these accounts tend to have higher rates than high street accounts. Scottish Widows Bank's instant access postal account pays 5.6 per cent on balances above £250. Buckinghamshire Building Society's Chiltern

Gold postal account pays 5.8 per cent on accounts above £1,000. Nationwide asks for a minimum balance of £2,000 for its InvestDirect postal account, which comes with a cashcard.

### ESCALATOR BONDS

THESE are also called stepped interest bonds because the interest increases in steps every year over the life of the bond. In order to enjoy the full benefit, you must hold the bond for its whole life, since the biggest rates are usually reserved for the last year. The Halifax's Stepped Income Reserve pays 6 per cent in the first year, rising to 6.5 per cent in the second, 7 per cent in the third, 7.5 per cent in the fourth and 9.5 in the final year. For an average annual return of 7.3 per cent.

### NOTICE ACCOUNTS

IF YOU don't expect to be short of cash, a notice account is an option. These accounts offer attractive rates, but there are penalties if you take out your money without giving the required amount of notice. Sun Banking Corporation's Liquidity 60-Day account pays 5.75 per cent on balances above £100 for savers who are prepared to give 60 days' notice before taking out their money. For deposits of more than £1,000, Scarborough Building Society offers 6.6 per cent on a 30-day notice account, while Britannia Building Society currently pays 5.7 per cent on its index-linked 90-day account. The Britannia account is set at 2.5 per cent above the retail price index. Rates are adjusted monthly. There are no penalties for withdrawals, provided 90 days' written notice is given.

### ADDED BONUS

THESE are closer to traditional investments than they are to standard bank or building society accounts. They promise fixed interest

rates and a full return of capital over a set period. Minimum deposits start at £1,000, but can be as high as £25,000. Whether these accounts are a good idea depends largely on whether you expect interest rates to go up or down in the near or medium term. If you expect an imminent drop in base rates, now may be the time to lock into a fixed rate. If you expect rates to rise, then you would be better waiting. One of the best rates is offered by Sun Banking Corp's Investment Certificates. These pay 6.6 per cent on £1,000 held for one year, or 7.5 when held for five years.

### IS THE MONEY SAFE?

BEFORE parting with your money, make sure the institution is in one of the official protection or compensation schemes. Banks and building societies now offer comparable levels of protection. If the bank or building society collapses, savers would get back 90 per cent of the money lost up to a maximum of £18,000.

KAREN ZAGOR

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The rate of interest is fixed for five years at a time. We will write on or before the fifth anniversary of purchase to tell you the rate which will apply for the next five years or of any decision by the Treasury not to offer further interest. Except at each five year anniversary date, 60 days' notice is required for repayment and no interest will be earned for the 60 days before the repayment date. Series 2 Penioners Guaranteed Income Bonds can be withdrawn from sale without notice. The Director of Savings reserves the right to seek evidence of identity. For a free copy of the full terms and conditions of today's offer, or for a free copy of our Virtual Shop Guide covering all National Savings' unique investment opportunities, you can call us free anytime on 0500 500 000

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2 I/We understand the purchase will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Prospectus.

3 Do you already hold either Penioners Guaranteed Income Bonds or National Savings Income Bonds? ☒ Please tick ☐ No ☐ Yes

If Yes enter the Register Number(s) shown on your Bonds.

Penioners Bonds  Income Bonds

4 M  (Mr Mrs Miss Ms)

Surname(s)

All forenames

Present address (in full)

Postcode

Daytime telephone number (useful if there is a query)

5 Enter full account details for interest to be paid direct to a bank/building society or National Savings Investment Account.

Bank/building society name

Address

Postcode

Account Number

Account Name(s)

6 Signature of holder(s)

Date  19

**NATIONAL SAVINGS**

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## Clarke says no to pin-up status

The Chancellor sensibly declined to come to the aid of homeowners in the Budget. Grants for those in negative equity would have made him a pleasing, chubby-chops pin-up in a million households, but would have been unfair to those who have been forced, in the past, to sell at a loss.

Extra tax relief for first-time buyers would equally have made him his backbenchers' answer in the chart-toppers. Robson and Jerome, but would have been open to abuse.

It was Kenneth Clarke's inaction that spurred the mortgage cuts after the Budget. Lower rates will now show whether people agree with Mr Clarke's statement that houses have never been so affordable.

Apart from urging waverers to commit to home ownership, the Chancellor's reluctance to intervene in the market has also done a favour for those who have already taken the plunge.

For several years, existing borrowers have been overlooked by banks and building societies more eager to attract new custom. This loyal band can now take heart in the Halifax's deci-



COMMENT  
**ANNE ASHWORTH**  
Personal Finance Editor

sion to remove cashbacks for new customers. The society intends to concentrate its efforts on those who have consistently paid their bills without incentives. Other lenders that have seen their margins squeezed by the need to offer sweeteners will be relieved that the Halifax has called time on the practice.

Borrowers will also be pleased to hear that it is not only the Chancellor who feels optimistic about property prices, a conviction he is professionally obliged to hold. The Halifax describes the housing market as "poised for an upturn", while the Nationwide sees a "firm trend". The Building Societies Association (BSA), suitably festive, speaks of "glimmers of improvement".

Again, all have a vested interest in recovery. Recent

pronouncements have been gloomy in the extreme. Indeed, Ian Shepherdson, economist at HSBC Markets, claims that before the Budget, the BSA exaggerated the misery to wring concessions from the Chancellor.

Based on October's slightly increased demand for mortgages, Mr Shepherdson forecasts a new year price rise.

Mr Clarke has asked Santa for something similar. But like ten million homebuyers, past experience has made him prepared for disappointment.

### Pension rebuff

COHABITATION is once more in the news. The Archbishop of Canterbury declares that "it is not, and cannot be, marriage in all but name". The Chancellor, for his part, insists that living in sin is a poor tax deal. Fiscally, mar-

riage may be advantageous. But, not necessarily when it comes to pensions, as the case of Pamela Cantle (see page 36) illustrates.

During her years at home with her children, Mrs Cantle paid no National Insurance, but qualified for a pension on her husband's contributions. When she returned to work, Mrs Cantle paid the full stamp, reassured that any gaps in her record would be made good. Her troubles began when she divorced and remarried, only to learn that she would have been better off living with the new man in her life. The remarriage has cut a third from her expected pension, as she is not entitled to benefit from the contributions of her first husband. It is as if her years as wife and mother had been wiped out.

Such treatment is not an isolated example of the shabby treatment of wives within the pension system. Although new rules can give a divorced wife a share of her husband's pension, she will lose everything if he dies before retirement.

To underline its commitment to matrimony, the Government should address these shortcomings.

## Fall in family fortunes

### WEEKEND MONEY



If the Chancellor is to be believed, Middle Britain has much to be thankful for from the latest Budget. But a Budget post-mortem by the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that yet again the rich get more while the poor lose.

Research carried out for *The Times* by Chantrey Vellacont, the accountant, not only bears this out, it shows that on average we are all worse off than at the last election.

We are paying more tax as a result of Budgets past. Mortgage interest relief (MIRAS) has been whittled back to 15 per cent from 25 per cent since 1993, putting a higher tax burden on homeowners.

Personal allowances were frozen for two years — 1993-94 and 1994-95 — adding to the impact of inflation. The married couple's allowance is now given at 15 per cent, down from 40 per cent. And employees' National Insurance contributions (NICs) have risen to 10 per cent from 9 per cent.

Higher indirect taxation since 1992 has also taken a toll. We now pay 8 per cent VAT on the fuel that heats our homes. Duty and associated VAT on



Better off down the years? The Budget helped this time

petrol has added 9p per litre in real terms to the cost of unleaded petrol.

General insurance premiums are now subject to 2.5 per cent VAT, while VAT on tobacco has put 30 pence on a pack of cigarettes. Holidays are not exempt. There is £5 air passenger duty on flights within the UK and EU, and £10 for flights further afield.

The latest Budget has softened the impact of some of these changes. Still, according to Maurice Fitzpatrick, senior tax consultant at Chantrey Vellacont, the Chancellor would have to give back another 6p in the pound in his next Budget to bring taxes back to the 1992 level.

**Married without children:** Working married couples with no children fared better than

most in the latest Budget. Like all basic and higher rate taxpayers, they will benefit from an extended 20p tax band and the reduction in the basic rate itself. Married couples effectively gain twice from these changes. In addition, they gain from the married couple's allowance, which was lifted in line with inflation.

A couple with joint earnings of £69,330 in the 1996-97 tax year can expect tax and NICs saving of £652 on the amount they would have paid before the Budget changes. But with 28.7 per cent of their gross earnings disappearing in tax and NICs, they are still worse

off than in 1992-93, when tax and NICs would have accounted for 27 per cent.

**Married with children:** The gains for a man earning £60,420 next year with a non-working wife and two children will be less dramatic. He will save £348. Tax and NICs will take 33 per cent of his gross earnings, compared with 30.9 per cent in 1992-93.

A married man with two children earning £20,140 next year will be £193 better off. Tax and NICs will swallow 24.4 per cent of his gross earnings, compared with 20.4 per cent in 1992-93.

**Lone parent:** A single parent earning £18,106 will save £172. But tax and NICs will take 23.3 per cent from gross earnings, up from 18.8 per cent in 1992-93. In addition, single parent benefits are to be frozen next year, with the aim of easing them out. This means £13 per child less than if these benefits had risen with inflation.

**Married pensioners aged 65 to 74:** Pensioners did well in the Budget. A man with pension income of £10,000 married to a woman with pension income of £5,000 will together save £103 in taxes. And they are losing only 4 per cent of income to tax, compared with 6 per cent in 1992-93.

All examples, except the pensioners, assume a £30,000 mortgage.

KAREN ZAGOR

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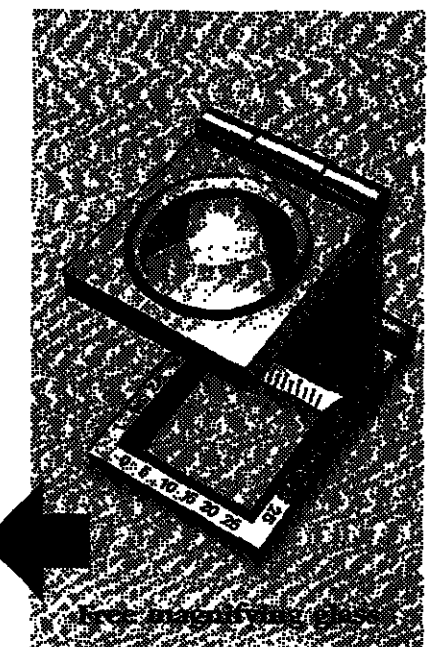
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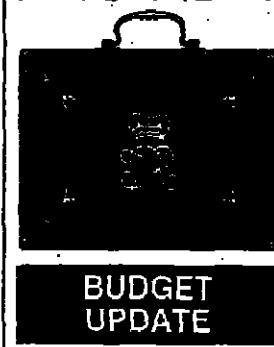
The Budget put the funding of long-term healthcare and the question of who pays for it at the top of the political agenda. Taking its lead from the US, the insurance industry is looking at employer-sponsored insurance schemes. They enable employees to avoid commission, as well as high administrative costs, and to benefit from block business savings.

By the end of 1993, there were more than 400 employer-sponsored schemes in the US, involving around 400,000 people. Acting as sponsors, employers negotiate a deal for a single payment purchase scheme or a regular premium policy. Most companies do not contribute to the scheme, although flexible benefit packages with fixed upper limits are an alternative.

Robert Stenlake, a partner with Bacon & Woodrow, the actuaries, says: "The employer does the running, and removes most of the aggro for employees and pensioners. Only a few UK insurance companies offer long-term policies and they are still selling direct to customers, so there is a whole range of products just waiting in the wings."

Only 15,000 policies have been issued by seven companies so far, including Clerical Medical and Pearl Assurance. Commercial Union was the first UK insurer to enter the long-term care market. For a 35-year-old man £1,000 a month cover with the company will cost £43.80 a month.

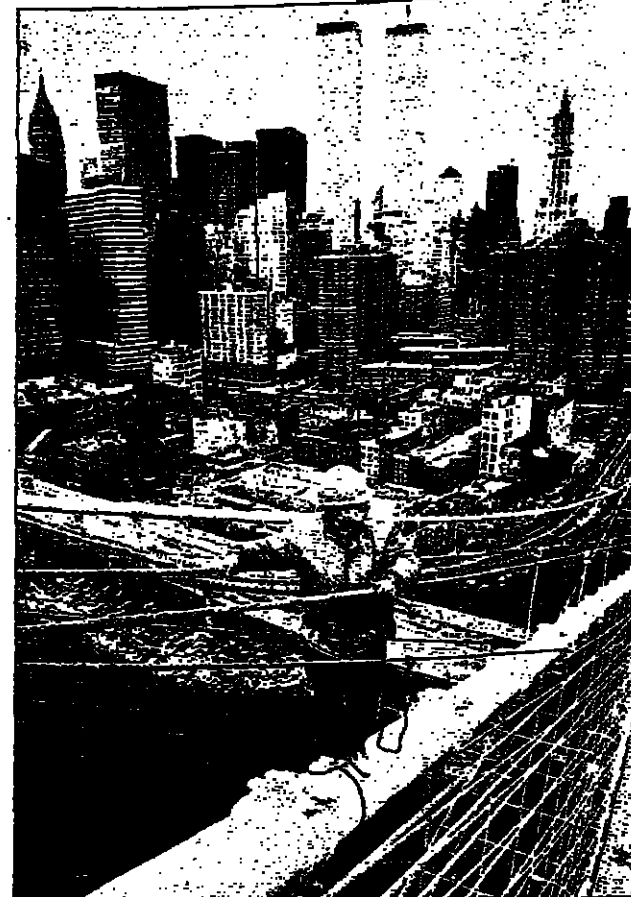
### WEEKEND MONEY



The cover includes a "paid up" value, which freezes a policyholder's savings if premiums cannot be paid after a minimum of five years. Eagle Star quotes £42 a month.

An 80-year-old man who is not well, and wants £300 a week nursing home fees cover for the rest of his life, would need £62,200 lump sum to buy Commercial Union's policy. Eagle Star charges £42,000.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) said: "It will never be a solution to long-term care. It is still quite an expensive type of insurance, and one that will never be a mass product in the same way as motor or house insurance. If you don't need long-term care, then your money's gone." Only one in six will require long-term care. The average stay in a nursing home is three years and a year's treatment can cost as much as £17,600. The Chancellor's decision to



Many Americans have crossed over to long-term healthcare

double the wealth threshold for state help with residential nursing care to £16,000 was more popular among insurance and pension fund figures. Raising the level of assets below which people pay no contribution from £3,000 to £10,000 was also hailed as a

positive move to reduce the immediate burden on those with modest savings.

Around 200,000 people are reported to pay the full cost of care themselves, which can be as much as £350 per week.

MORAG PRESTON

## Save more with a partner scheme

THE Chancellor referred to "partnership schemes", similar to those in four American states, where people who plan ahead to meet a proportion of long-term care costs are able to retain more of their savings over £16,000 (Morag Preston writes).

PPP Lifetime, the UK's leading long-term care insurer, has been actively promoting the "Connecticut scheme", where after three years those who have taken out recognised private insurance of a specified amount will have their bills picked up by the State.

Paul Seymour, chairman of the Continuing Care Conference, an umbrella body covering charities and insurers, said: "The changes are minimal. It's only a palliative - it won't solve the problem. The move to exempt cash payments from insurance policies will probably help some individuals to cover care bills in their own home, but will have limited impact. Not that many people will be making these kinds of claims."

"The major benefit is the consultation coming up," Mr Seymour said, referring to discussions on the Chancellor's initiatives that will take place with the Treasury during the new year. "It's about making improvements for the future, not just for today. The Chancellor was perfectly right not to come up with an immediate answer."

### HOW ALLOWANCES CHANGE

1995-96		1996-97	
Taxable income bands £	Tax rate	Taxable income bands £	Tax rate

0 to 3,200	20%	0 to 3,900	20%
3,201 to 24,300	25%	3,901 to 25,500	24%
24,301+	40%	25,501+	40%

\*Basic personal allowance on which no tax paid

£3,525	£3,785
--------	--------

Income limit for full age-related allowance

£14,800	£15,200
---------	---------

Investment income tax for basic rate taxpayer

25%	20%
-----	-----

Married couples allowance

Under 65	£1,790	£1,790
65-74	£2,595	£2,115
75+	£3,095	£2,155

Inheritance tax allowance

£154,000	£200,000
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### TAX BRIEFINGS

Reducing the qualifying period for employee share ownership schemes, which encourage share ownership through share options linked to savings plans, from five to three years should encourage more younger workers to participate. The minimum amount employees can save every month has been reduced from £10 to £5. Chantrey Vellacott, the chartered accountant, said the reduction may have been aimed at encouraging people to put their money in employee share-ownership schemes rather than the National Lottery. Employees can also cash in shares in company profit-sharing schemes after three years and pay no tax. Under present rules, employees have to wait five years before cashing in the shares tax-free.

Payments from insurance policies to cover loan repayments in case of

sickness or redundancy, or to cover income lost through sickness will be exempt from tax after April 6, 1996. Existing claimants can reclaim any tax they have paid through their tax office.

This summer, the Revenue threatened to tax gains on gilt and bond holdings as income. After an outcry, only holdings of £200,000 or more were affected. Now, all individuals and trusts holding gilts and bonds will be exempt from income tax, which will apply to companies only.

The Budget changes mean employees with company share option plans up to £20,000 will pay no income tax when the options are granted or exercised on two conditions: the shares must be worth up to £20,000 when granted, and must not be granted at less than market price.

Transfer of assets between husband and wife is not taxable, unlike that between co-habitees, which triggers a capital gains charge. In addition, from April 6 a husband and wife will each be able to leave £200,000 to their children free of inheritance tax when they die. It therefore makes sense for man with £400,000 assets to transfer half to his wife. Anyone can take a chance that they are going to live another seven years and make a gift of money without paying tax (other assets such as stocks and shares may trigger CGT). With careful planning, a family with a home and modest savings could avoid inheritance tax altogether. Those with surplus income can make regular money gifts without incurring tax. You have to prove it is surplus cash, that you did not lower your standard of living by giving it away, and gifts are made regularly.

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Save more with a partner scheme

Marianne Curphey looks into insurance schemes for fans of riskier recreation



Really active sports enthusiasts who respond to the pull of more perilous pastimes could find that an annual insurance policy is a better bet

The most dangerous sport in Britain is angling. More people die through falls, drownings and riverbank accidents than in any other sport, including racing and rally driving and horse riding.

Insurance schemes for risky sports have multiplied as more people choose to spend their leisure time living dangerously. As far as insurers are concerned, if you regularly scuba-dive, fly a microlight, bungee-jump, windsurf or play roller-hockey, you are indulging in a "high-risk sport". Rambling, traditionally a pastime for older people, is regarded as "intermediate", while tug of war falls into the low-risk category along with snooker and bowls.

There are large variations in the price and scope of cover, but the minimum should include cover for search costs and repatriation, loss of limbs, temporary and/or permanent disability, and may extend to dental and physiotherapy costs.

The categories by which sports are classed depend more on the cost to the insurer

Cover for those dangerous times

meeting the claim than the intrinsic danger of the pastime. Judo and surfing are classed as high-risk sports because of the damage you could theoretically do to an opponent or participant.

Mountaineering is regarded as very risky because even the most experienced mountaineer has to make only one slip to have a fatal accident.

A tailor-made policy will be necessary if you have a penchant for extreme sports such as abseiling and hang-gliding, which will be excluded from most travel and sports insurance cover. Bungee jumping, potholing, water-skiing and microlight flying may also require special policies.

The Association of British Insurers says that the increase in general leisure time and outdoor pursuits has led insurers to look carefully at the sports market.

David Sterling, managing director of Crispin Speers and Partners, a London-based insurer, agrees that demand is increasing "all the time".

Mr Sterling says: "People are spending their holidays, weekends and time off doing ever more obscure sports. Although we cover all ages, the highest premiums are paid by older people learning a hazardous sport for the first time." The company offers an

amateur sports policy through insurance brokers that covers any sport for a year, with prices starting at £100 per person.

Premiums for mountaineering are assessed on whether cover is required for Britain, the Alps, America or the Himalayas, he adds.

For the really active, an annual insurance policy is often the best way to organise

cover starts at £66 and paragliding at £135.

Julian Huchs, managing director, says that demand for specific sports policies has grown over the past four years. "The average annual travel insurance still does not cater for sports enthusiasts and risky sports are often excluded."

"We see tailor-made policies as a growth market which has so far been very successful for us," he says.

Cycling is classed as relatively low risk and, from January 1, anyone joining the British Cycling Federation at a cost of £19 per adult (there are reductions for children) will receive free legal and insurance cover in the event of a car or cycling accident. The cost of repairs will be claimed from the third party at the conclusion of the claim.

With the start of the ski season only weeks away, skiers should ensure their travel insurance policies give adequate cover. The minimum should be medical cover of up to £1 million, payment of between £25,000 and £30,000 for total disablement, and cover for liability in case they cause an accident.

Insurance cover costs more for those skiing in North America and most ordinary travel insurance

will not cover off-piste skiing or snowboarding.

The French Ski Federation runs an annual skiers' insurance card called Carte Neige, which covers the holder solely in the event of a mountain sporting accident, including skiing off-piste, freestyle skiing and snowboarding, and summer sports such as walking, climbing and mountain canoeing. It costs £32.50 per person per year.

Mondial Assistance, the international assistance organisation, has just launched a travel insurance plan for Carte Neige holders that extends the medical cover available and adds worldwide insurance cover for cancellation, lost baggage insurance, and legal insurance. It costs £75 per adult per year.

Columbus Travel Insurance is currently offering up to eight days' ski insurance within Europe for £29 per person. There are no restrictions on off-piste or snowboarding activities.

Carte Neige is available through Alpine Apartments Agency: 01544 388234. Agency: 0117 9226222.

People are spending time off doing ever more obscure sports

cover. One company, Visa-sports, which, from January, will be called Sports Cover Direct, offers two policies: for £26 annually a Multi-sports card that covers activities including mountaineering, skiing, paragliding (which has a £75 excess), canoeing, surfing, windsurfing, and judo; and a Venture card that offers worldwide travel and sports insurance from £50 upwards; ski

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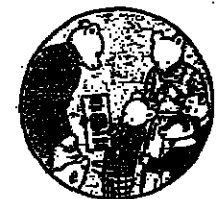
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## Look a storm in the eye with good insurance

Karen Zagor

on how to  
prepare for the  
wind of change  
this winter

In a month when high winds and heavy rains have buffeted Scotland, Ireland and the South West of England, homeowners have started to file the first storm insurance claims of winter.

But claiming for storm damage is not a straightforward process, as readers who have had their roof tiles blown off by high winds may have discovered.

The problem is that there is no simple industry definition of a storm. Technically speaking, a storm measures force 11 on the Beaufort Wind Scale, with wind speeds of 56 to 65 nautical miles per hour. Since 1989, the Insurance Ombudsman has interpreted a wind storm as measuring force 10 or more, with mean wind speed of at least 48 knots. But the Meteorological Office, which monitors weather conditions for the country, says damage can occur when gusts reach 39 knots or more.

This lack of consensus means that it is easy for an insurer to claim that the high winds in question did not constitute a storm for insurance purposes. The Insurance Ombudsman says he expects insurers to show some flexibility, rather than rigidly applying a Beaufort Scale standard. But weather conditions must be of an extreme or unusual intensity to qualify as a storm. Exceptionally heavy rain, hail or snow may fall into the storm category.

The situation is further complicated because most policies do not cover wear and tear to property. Unless other homes in your street are affected, it is not difficult for an insurer to reject a claim on the basis that the property was not properly maintained. A Norwich Union spokeswoman says: "You do have a responsibility to keep your property in good condition. If poor maintenance is a feature then wear and tear may come into play."

Last year the Insurance Ombudsman heard 147 cases related to disputes over storm damage. This summer he shed some light on the subject when he ruled that a policyholder and her insurer should split the cost of a claim where previous, unseen damage had contributed to the weakness of a wall which was later damaged in a storm. The ombudsman noted that the decay had not reached such a level that it was a disaster waiting to happen. Because the damage would not have occurred under normal conditions, the insurer was asked to contribute.

The best way to forestall an



Insure the roof over your head adequately to cover any storm damage claims

insurance claim rejection is to have evidence that the property was in good condition before the incident weather struck. The Association of British Insurers produces a helpful fact sheet on how to avoid trouble.

## BEFORE THE STORM

CHECK whether you are covered for the full cost of rebuilding. If you are not, you may want to switch insurers or upgrade your policy. Similarly, check whether your home contents cover is for full replacement value or for market value. You will get a lot less if it is the latter.

## FLOODS

IF YOU are in a flood alert area, move everything you can upstairs and put sandbags around the doors. If you are flooded, do not drink tap water or use electric or gas appliances until told it is safe to do so.

## WIND DAMAGE

IF YOU have been delaying essential repairs, act now. A storm will make the damage worse. Check the roof, chim-

neys and gutters for loose or dislodged tiles, cracks and blockages. Flat roofs are not last for ever. If yours is seven or eight years old, consider getting it replaced.

If your roof is damaged in a storm, use plastic sheeting or hardboard to minimise damage to your possessions, but do not climb onto the roof in a storm.

## FROZEN PIPES

FROZEN pipes can be dangerous, especially if any part of the hot-water system is frozen. You can reduce the risk of freezing by insulating pipes and water tanks. Water pipes in the loft should only be lagged on the top so that heat from below can reach them. Make sure your water storage tank has a stop valve so that you can stop water flowing if a pipe bursts.

To prevent a sudden cold snap freezing pipes while you are away from home, leave the central heating on constantly at a normal setting if you take a winter break.

If your pipes do freeze, turn off the main stop valve and apply heat to the pipe, starting near the tap. Hot-water bottles or hairdryers will work, but

do not use a naked flame. If part of the hot water system is frozen, turn off the boiler and call a plumber immediately to minimise the risk of explosion.

## CLAIM REJECTED?

IF YOUR insurer says the weather wasn't stormy enough to merit a claim, check with your local Met Office for a report of exact weather conditions on the day. There may be a fee for this. When making your claim, be precise about the time and date; some claims are initially rejected because the homeowner got the date wrong. Find out if any neighbours have been affected. If your neighbours suffered storm damage it could strengthen your claim.

## WHERE TO GO

IF YOU still feel you have been treated unfairly, contact the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau, City Gate One, 135 Park Street, London SE1 9EA. The inquiry line is on 0171 928-7600.

For a winter weather information sheet write to the Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HQ.

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The Equitab





President Clinton may have rekindled the special relationship, but the UK is no longer so inextricably linked to Wall Street

## Investment over there ... and over here

President Clinton's visit to Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic this week did as much to rekindle the "special relationship" between Britain and the US as it did to enhance Ireland's position as the ancestral home of at least four US Presidents.

But in stock market terms, the UK is no longer so inextricably linked to Wall Street as it used to be, even though the two markets have more in common with each other than the UK does with many of its European trading partners.

Five years ago, for example, the gap between the Dow Jones industrial average and the FTSE 100 index was a comparatively narrow one of 300 to 400 points. Nowadays, that band has broadened to about 1,400 points.

The question for investors is not whether the UK features in a portfolio — it should be the bedrock in stock market terms — but whether to increase that exposure and, if so, through which medium.

It has long been the perceived wisdom that if you wanted income, you went for an income sector unit or investment trust. If you wanted your money, hopefully, to grow over the years, you went for a straightforward capital growth trust. There is, however, an alternative on the growth front that may serve equally well and that is picking an income fund and reinvesting the dividends.

As the Micropal statistics show, there is little to choose between the two in performance terms either for unit or investment trusts. Over both one year and three years, UK equity income and UK equity growth trusts have provided better average returns than is true for the Micropal benchmark of all trusts.

One of the most consistent performers has been the Jupiter Tyndall team headed by William Littlewood on the income side and Edward Bonham Carter for growth. Neither believes in sector selection on its

**Robert Miller looks at  
increasing exposure to  
the UK stock market**



own and both pay close attention to picking individual companies. Mr Littlewood, for example, is keen on Capital Corporation and London Clubs, the casino companies, and food retailers such as Tesco. He is also a fan of Perpetual, one of the most successful fund management groups, in which 4 per cent of Jupiter Tyndall's Income fund is invested.

Mr Littlewood and Mr Bonham Carter passionately believe that technology is the key to future growth and prosperity in UK companies. As Mr Littlewood puts it: "Technology is helping a lot of companies to be more efficient and keep the prices for goods and services down. It is also a key in the mergers we are seeing such as that of Lloyds Bank and TSB."

He believes that there will be a number of mergers and takeovers between banks, insurance companies and building societies over the next year or so. One spin-off could be that consumers in general will increase their spending partly on the back of windfall distributions and also an increase in real disposable incomes.

Mr Bonham Carter, whose UK Growth fund has a small 2 per cent exposure to the US market, believes that in spite of the

potential for a consumer "bounce-back", persistent concerns about job insecurity and demographic and structural changes will keep the lid on any long-term plans for consumers to embark on a sustained spending spree. But both believe the economic fundamentals that help to drive markets onwards and upwards are set fair. Mr Littlewood's view is that inflation is "virtually dead" and that interest rates could be cut at least twice in the next nine months, possibly to about the 4 per cent level. There has been a slowdown in global economies partly because interest rates are still too high. "When rates come down, markets generally go up," Mr Littlewood says.

In 1994, the FTSE index of the UK's top 100 companies was down 10.3 per cent. This year, it opened at 3,065.7 and, in spite of dipping down below 3,000 on several occasions in January and March, has marched on to successive highs. In the same period, the FTSE all-share index of nearly 900 UK companies has moved from 1,521.08 on January 3 to about 1,788.

Among the future uncertainties facing investors are the outside prospect of a general election coming sooner rather than later, although Kenneth Clarke's Budget this week strongly suggests that he expects another bite at the cherry next November.

There is also the general slowdown that has faced global economies. That could be overcome if worldwide interest rates, led by the US, begin to fall again. There are also some analysts who believe that we have already seen the best from the UK stock market in performance terms. That, of course, is always a possibility. But your exposure to the UK market, if you are taking a reasonably cautious approach to equity investment, should be constant at about 50 to 55 per cent of your overall portfolio, with the possibility of dipping to the lower end of that scale if you want to take profits from time to time.

BEST PERFORMING UNIT TRUSTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM					
EQUITY INCOME		EQUITY GROWTH			
ONE YEAR	THREE YEARS	ONE YEAR	THREE YEARS		
Jupiter Income	125.91	GT Income	202.68	Jupiter UK Growth	129.28
Perpetual Income	119.95	Jupiter Income	202.10	Credit Suisse Fellowship	126.42
Melton General	118.20	Perpetual Income	185.00	PM Equity Growth	127.30
Premium LJ Monthly Income	117.82	Morgan Grenfell UK Equity Income	180.11	Jupiter UK Growth	126.40
Lazard UK Income	116.19	Premium LJ Monthly Income	178.85	Super Capital Growth	124.84
Morgan Grenfell UK Equity Income	114.24	M&G High Income	173.15	Fidelity Special Situations	120.97
Sector Average	108.10	Sector Average	149.51	Evermore Recovery	117.73

BEST PERFORMING INVESTMENT TRUSTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM					
CAPITAL GROWTH		INCOME GROWTH			
ONE YEAR	THREE YEARS	ONE YEAR	THREE YEARS		
Schroder UK Growth Fund	137.11	Flaming Enterprise	207.73	Morgan Grenfell Equity Income	129.90
Flaming Enterprise	128.94	Welsh Industrial	181.36	TR City of London	121.52
BNI Endowment	124.47	New Guinness Soca (NSB42)	148.56	Temple Bar	119.59
Unimutual Assets	122.31	Broadgate	135.49	Lowland	118.86
Welltower 2nd Endowment Policy	117.98	Welltower Endowment Policy	128.00	Averton Sp Lit Units	118.33
Welsh Industrial	117.26			Danach Income Growth	118.28
Sector Average	118.59	Sector Average	160.45	TR City of London	116.71

Unit Trusts: £100 invested after-to-bid with net income reinvested and charges taken into account. Investment trusts: mid-market to mid-market price with net income reinvested but no charges taken into account. Figures as at November 27, 1995. Source: Micropal.

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**THE M&G PEP**

Caroline Merrell looks at some of the environmental factors that now affect house sales

## Pylon blight spreads as lenders shun the risks

The Government this week refused to bail out the beleaguered housing market. In his Budget statement, Kenneth Clarke said he had considered all options and had decided against a rescue because of the expense involved. He added he was optimistic about a recovery in prices next year. "I remain convinced that what the housing market needs above all is steady growth and low inflation."

"All the major lenders expect prices to start to rise next year, and as confidence grows, I expect the market to start to move soon," he said. UBS said last week it expected house prices to rise by 2 per cent next year, and by a further 9 per cent the year after.

A glimmer of house price recovery linked with a realisation that homeowners cannot expect any special government treatment, added to this week's cut in interest rates, could be the trigger that many people need to try to move. However, if you have not moved for a while, you may be

in for a shock. A number of environmental factors now affect your ability to either borrow for house purchase or sell the home you have.

One of the most recent developments has been a change in surveyors' and lenders' attitudes to property that is close to electricity pylons or substations. Five years ago, research linking the incidence of child cancer and leukaemia to the electromagnetic fields surrounding these sorts of structures proved to be inconclusive. However, research carried out over the past three years, although not conclusive, does point to a link.

Richard Doll, honorary consultant with the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said that more extensive research was currently being carried out. "Recent research has given support to the idea that there could be a link between certain sorts of cancer and electricity pylons. The research is not conclusive, and the cases are very few."

However, the public's perception about the risk is such that surveyors may choose to reduce valuations by between 20 to 50 per cent, and some lenders may choose not to lend on this type of property at all.

Jeff Seymour, Alliance & Leicester's corporate communications manager, said it might not lend an applicant money to buy a house that was close to an electrical installation. He said: "We have to be very careful. It would be a major consideration."

Other lenders, such as the Halifax and the Nationwide,



Electricity structures near homes can devalue property

try to find out what their views are. He said their replies indicated that they had not yet formed a consensus on the subject. But he said houses situated in electrical magnetic fields could face being valued at a 20-50 per cent discount.

There are various things to look out for when looking for your dream home, to ensure that you do not waste time and effort, only to find that your lender is unwilling to give you the money. Among them are:

■ **Structure and materials** — non-standard building materials, such as certain types of reinforced concrete, may preclude getting a mortgage. Steel-framed buildings could also be turned down.

■ **Timber-framed buildings**, where there is no outer skin, could also be suspect. These buildings could have a shorter life than more traditional structures. Buildings where asbestos is present could also be vetoed.

■ **Land contamination** — you may not be able to borrow money to buy a house if it is on or near contaminated land.

Other factors that surveyors will take into account when valuing property are:

■ **Area** — Proximity to good schools and amenities is considered when making valuations, as are any plans for roads or buildings.

■ **State of repair** — the state of the property, its decor and condition are of major importance in valuations.

say they would take every case on its merits and claim they do not have a specific policy concerning pylons. However, they point out they have to be convinced that should they have to repossess the property for any reason, they will be able to sell it on. John Mer-

edith, of Meredith & Co, a London-based surveyor, said: "It is all to do with the public's perception of risk. If you have two identical properties, one of which is next to an electricity pylon, then you do not buy it." Mr Meredith has written to the major building societies to

## Why marriage makes you a loser

In spite of John Major's pledges to support the institution of marriage and strengthen the family, Pamela Cantle will lose out on part of her state pension benefits because she has married.

Mrs Cantle has discovered that she will be paid a basic pension of only £41.20 a week, £17.65 less than the standard basic pension of £58.85 a week after marrying her second husband, Peter.

The problem has arisen because, like many women, Mrs Cantle took several years out of employed work — from 1965 to 1977 — to bring up her children. During the 12 years when she was not earning an income, she paid no National Insurance contributions. In 1986, nine years after she had divorced her first husband, Mrs Cantle checked to see how much state pension she would be entitled to on the basis of her current contributions.

The Department of Social Security told her that National Insurance contributions made by her first husband during their marriage could be used to enhance her own pension rate. But she would still have to make National Insurance contributions for another eight years to qualify for a standard basic pension.

Since then, Mrs Cantle has worked and paid the full stamp, believing that this would satisfy the contribution conditions. However, she has now discovered that because she remarried in 1992, she no longer qualifies for the contributions made by her first husband.

She says: "I married a retired bachelor who had obviously never paid a mar-



ried man's stamp. I believed that as I carried on working and paid the full stamp that getting married would not affect my position.

"I was told at the Barnstaple DSS office by a sympathetic counter clerk that my 'mistake was in marrying'. My husband and I are most concerned. Surely there cannot be a penalty for marriage?"

Unfortunately, there is. When Mrs Cantle first checked her pension entitlement, she was advised that the details applied only if she did not remarry before pension age. A letter from the DSS said: "If you do remarry before then, your potential retirement pension will have to be worked out again."

A DSS spokeswoman confirms that if a woman remarries before pension age, her entitlement to any benefits from contributions made by her first husband is nullified. She says: "The leaflets on National Insurance and pensions have always spelt it out very clearly."

This is no consolation for Mrs Cantle. She says: "I am pretty furious. It seems a severe penalty for marriage and I would like to see others warned of the regulations."

The Benefits Agency publishes a *Guide to Retirement Pensions*. To obtain a copy, call 0800 666555 or visit your local Benefits Agency office.

JILL INSLEY

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56	£7,036.14
57	£6,587.69
58	£6,139.24
59	£5,690.79
60	£5,242.34
61	£4,848.79
62	£4,455.24
63	£4,061.69
64	£3,668.14
65	£3,274.59
66	£2,758.99
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70	£696.59

\* Comparison with the leading private medical insurer illustrating the savings realised without automatic age increases.

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Half a million people could soon be celebrating with a tax-free lump sum

## Tessa to bring new year cheer

Banks and building societies are relying on savers' apathy and offering low bonuses to customers looking to reinvest their maturing Tessa (tax-exempt special savings accounts) next month.

Half a million people will celebrate the new year with a tax-free lump sum of up to £12,000 if they have held their five-year-old Tessa to maturity. However, their delight may turn to disappointment when they discover that the bank or building society is offering them little incentive to reinvest. The table shows what each fully topped-up Tessa is now worth.

Tessas were the success story of John Major's short tenure as Chancellor, but Kenneth Clarke was said to have considered scrapping or changing them in the Budget. In the end, they did not get a mention.

Introduced in January 1991, many variable-rate Tessas began life paying out an interest rate way beyond the dreams of today's savers. All the major institutions were offering rates of between 13 and 15 per cent.

This week, the banks and buildings societies have been writing to existing customers informing them of rates for

Marianne  
Curphey

checks out

reinvestment  
opportunities

Tessa II, which must be opened within six months of Tessa I maturing. The original capital invested — up to £9,000 per person — can be rolled over, but the interest, which could be as high as £3,000, cannot.

Worries about an imminent cut in interest rates mean many institutions are hedging their bets and waiting until nearer Christmas to reveal details of fixed-rate Tessas. However, variable rates are being posted to existing customers this week.

One reader with a maturing Tessa told us he had been finding it difficult to shop around: "In order to assess performance, the only figures which matter to me are final values for current Tessas, but these are elusive numbers".

Midland Bank says its pri-

ority is to offer its Tessa customers a disciplined savings scheme rather than the best rates and expects many of them to roll over into Tessa II.

It said: "Our current rate is 6.75 per cent variable and we have not been the highest payers. However, we are confident people will stay with us and use our Tessa to make regular savings contributions rather than chase the highest rates at smaller societies."

Neither Abbey National nor the Yorkshire Building Society intends to offer loyalty bonuses to existing customers to persuade them to reinvest.

However, Yorkshire promises all customers a "guaranteed rate" of above the average variable Tessa rate from the top five societies. The current variable rate is 6.65 and the minimum deposit is £100. There are penalties for withdrawing money early.

Abbey National is planning to release details of Tessa II next week. They are believed to include a scheme to protect investors with a fixed-rate Tessa from losing out if interest rates rise. Its current variable rate is 6.8 per cent.

The Halifax says it will give reinvestors a £50 bonus when their new fund matures in five years, plus a lump sum equivalent to 2.5 per cent of the balance on maturity. Its current rate is 5.90 per cent.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is giving existing customers a loyalty bonus interest rate of 0.5 per cent in addition to the variable rate of 7.25 per cent being offered to new customers transferring from other societies.

If the interest rate remained unchanged for a year, this would yield an extra £46 per year on a balance of £9,000, the maximum sum that can be reinvested in Tessa II.

HSBC is hoping to capitalise on Tessa switchers by launching its first Tessa product — a FTSE index-linked Tessa with a guaranteed rate of 5 per cent per year, plus up to 10 per cent a year bonus payment depending on how far the index rises.

## Ernie's latest millionaire is new bondholder

Premium Bonds offer a risk-free chance of winning £1 million. Karen Zagor reports

For two months running, the Premium Bond £1 million prize has been won by a brand new bond in its first eligible month. Under National Savings rules, a bond must be held for a full calendar month after purchase before it can enter the draw. This month's winning bond was bought in October.

National Savings says it cannot calculate what the odds are of taking the jackpot on the first draw, but they do know that the odds of winning £1 million this month was 1 in 5.66 billion. The likelihood of winning any prize is 1 in 15,000 for each £1 bond.

This month's winning stake was £1,026. Using the law of averages, £1,250 worth of bonds should yield one

prize a year. Prizes start at £50. The bigger prizes include two prizes of £100,000, three of £50,000, four of £25,000, ten of £10,000 and 25 of £5,000. There is only one £1 million prize a month.

This month's winner lives in Gloucestershire. Southerners have won 13 of the 20 jackpot draws since the £1 million prize was introduced in 1993. This has created a myth that the draw has a southern bias. In reality, southerners buy more bonds so they are

more likely to win a prize. Prizewinning numbers are chosen using an electronic random number generator called Ernie. Ernie's output is monitored each month by the Government Actuary to ensure that each eligible bond has an equal chance of winning.

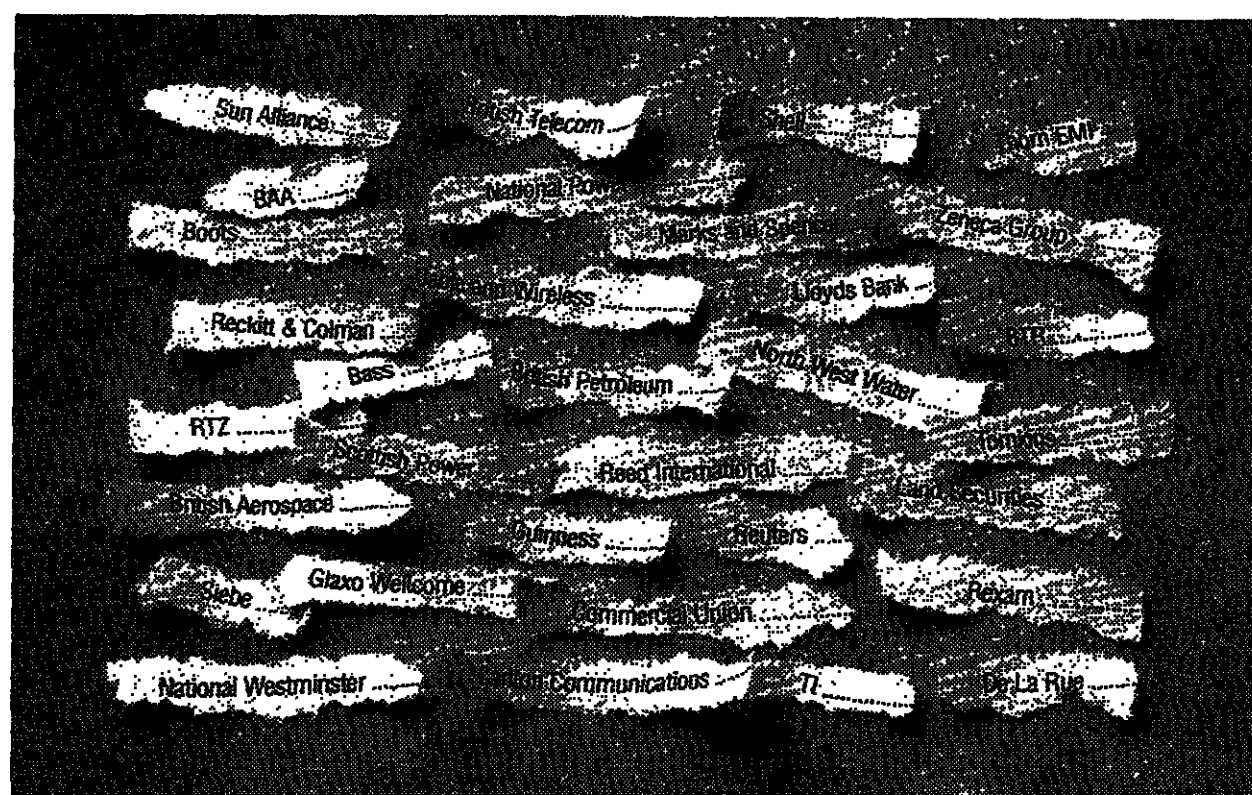
Premium Bonds can be bought at any post office or by responding to a National Savings newspaper advertisement. The minimum purchase is £100, but big spenders can buy up to £20,000. You can always cash in your

Premium Bonds, but you will lose the interest the stake could have earned if it had been invested elsewhere.

Unlike the National Lottery, all Premium Bond prizes are meant to be distributed after each monthly draw. For the big prizes down to £50,000, National Savings will notify you in person of the win. Winners of £25,000 are notified by recorded delivery; winners of smaller amounts, by post.

If you have moved and think you may have an unclaimed winning bond, National Savings says it can check your numbers against all draws since 1957 to make sure you have not been overlooked.

Letters, page 39



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\*SOURCE: MICROPAL, UK EQUITY GENERAL SECTOR, OFFER TO BID, WITH NET INCOME REINVESTED SINCE LAUNCH ON 7TH JUNE 1991 TO 1ST NOVEMBER 1995. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. THE PRICE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. EXCHANGE RATES MAY ALSO CAUSE THE VALUE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS TO GO DOWN OR UP. ISSUED BY PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED, A MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT GROUP, REGULATED BY INMRO AND THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND ALSO A MEMBER OF AITF.

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Isosch Building Society	£12,187.05
West Bromwich Building Society	£12,183.42
Allied Trust Bank (Premier)	£12,177.55
Easton Bank	£12,162.32
Sutton Walden Building Society	£12,150.50
Buckinghamshire Building Society	£12,140.00
Stafford Railway Building Society	£12,138.57
Tipton & Coates Building Society	£12,128.47
Northamptonshire Building Society	£12,115.53
Derlington Building Society	£12,106.85
Bradford & Bingley Building Society (High Return)	£12,083.40
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Lambeth Building Society	£12,087.81
Derbyshire Building Society	£12,058.42
Vernon Building Society	£12,058.22
Progressive Building Society (NI)	£12,053.50
Halifax Building Society	£12,050.69
Marston Building Society	£12,048.00
Cambridge Building Society	£12,046.85
Beverley Building Society	£12,039.42
Bristol & West Building Society (Bonus)	£12,019.36
Londonderry Prov Building Society	£12,012.60
Woolwich Building Society	£12,011.82
Mercantile Building Society	£12,001.80

Projected maturity values of variable rate Tessas, assuming that the maximum investment was made at launch and maximum top-ups made on each anniversary. Source: Moneyfacts

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Top of The Bank TESSA  
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Projected high street bank TESSA returns on maturity are as follows: TSB £11,814.32\*, Abbey National £11,845.81\*, Royal Bank of Scotland £11,886.47\*, NatWest £11,886.65\*. Figures based on following assumptions: A) Maximum amounts permissible under TESSA rules were invested in our TESSA accounts each year. B) Product was taken out with the bank nearest the date of launch of that bank's TESSA (1991) home for 5 years period. Rates used for calculations are those relevant to this account regardless of whether or not accounts remained open to new investors throughout. C) Interest rates do not change from 31/03/95 to maturity date. D) Interest rates for all products are variable. E) Returns to TESSA (Plus Edition). \*Includes £50 bonus paid on maturity. Excludes bonus of £100 at total interest earned paid on maturity. Not available for TESSA transferred to from another extension or a TESSA was opened after 26/09/94. + Includes bonuses paid at maturity. Excludes interest earned at maturity. Source: City's Guide 21/09/95. Withdrawals from TESSA accounts in excess of 70% of interest earned will result in loss of the interest status and closure of the account. Maximum savings limit £20,000. Not available in Channel Islands or Isle of Man. Some calls may be recorded & monitored. TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1SQ. Registered in England and Wales. Number 1089266 TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LN. Registered in Scotland. Number 86232.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

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Chancellor missed opportunity to  
widen appeal of pensioners bonds

From A. J. Dharamsey  
Sir, The Chancellor's decision to lower the qualifying age to invest in the so-called Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds from 65 to 60 without proposing a change of name is rather insignificant and unavailing. On inquiry, it has been disclosed that, most probably, owing to lack of publicity, only 244,000 pensioners have bothered to invest in these high-interest bonds since their launch in January 1994. With an average holding of just over £9,000, the pensioners bonds have raised just under £2.3 billion to date. However, according to the Central Statistical Office, there are over 12 million pensioners in the UK and, if most of them had invested as little as £500 by now, the Chancellor could have filled the Treasury's coffers by at least £6 billion — double his revised forecast for the net contribution from these bonds for 1995-96. Just imagine how he could have used this additional £3,000 million. Should there be another opportunity, I suggest that, after he launches an innovative revenue raising proposal, the Treasury embarks on an aggressive press and television marketing campaign. As aforementioned, the Chancellor also missed an ideal opportunity on Budget day to rechristen the pensioners bonds by renaming them "PQRS Bonds" — Persons Qualifying to Retire Saving Bonds. He could have even lowered the qualifying age to 50, instead of 60, as nearly 400,000 people retire at 55 (CSO records for 1992). The only decent proposal in respect of the bonds was the decision to increase the maximum holding limit from £20,000 to £50,000. Yours, ABBY J. DHARAMSEY, 2 Bentley Court, W2

Ernie does try to contact 'lost' winners

From Mr T. Threlfall  
Sir, Mr G. B. Collins (Weekend Money Letters, November 18) is concerned that Premium Bond prize warrants may get lost in the post and suggests that Ernie should write annually to every bondholder with a statement of prizes paid to them. There are 23 million bondholders, many of whom hold a single £1 bond, so that would be a costly exercise. But it would also be an unnecessary one. If a warrant for any of the £50-£1,000 prizes has not been encashed within four months, we write to the holder again. (There are special procedures for larger prizes). The 0.4 per cent of prizes which remain unclaimed are mostly due to holders who have moved without leaving a forwarding address. Mr Collins is also concerned about whether all bonds are entered in every draw. No bond numbers are fed into Ernie, so none can be left out. Ernie generates numbers completely randomly up to a predetermined ceiling. Those that match eligible bond numbers are the winners. TOM THRELFALL (Head of Operations), Premium Bond Office, Blackpool.

Cost of a £10 stake

From Mr J. W. Lane  
Sir, I paid off my daughter's outstanding mortgage, ie capital sum payable to date and £50 redemption fee to Bradford & Bingley Building Society. At its suggestion, £10 was left outstanding for custody and safe-keeping of deeds. She continued to pay her house and contents insurance. As time passed, being without work and struggling for cash, she sought to discontinue the payments, but was told that she could not as any property

the society had an interest in — £10 — had to be insured. She stopped her payments, asked for her deeds to be returned and was presented with a further quote of £45-£50 redemption fee. The society had paid the insurance against her wishes, resulting in a final account of £199.98. Yours faithfully, JOHN LANE, 18 Berry Hill Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082.

Small investors are picking up the tab for the unchallenged antics of management, says Tom Benyon

# Time for Sid to call companies to account



There is more than a shade of Catch-22 over the attendance of private investors at annual meetings

Today's investor has a right to believe that any institution he trusts with his money has two clear tasks: to increase his capital, commensurate with reasonable risk, and to prevent excess and foolishness on the part of British industry. He is sadly mistaken, for many institutions appear to perform neither role adequately.

We now live in a society where simple performance tables are commonplace. Such tables help the taxpayer to make essential decisions based on tough reality rooted in fact, and they strip away the rosy perceptions fostered by the professionals.

There are, of course, investment league tables among investment houses, but these have been muted to the point of being meaningless. And the layman can be easily confused by the diversionary skills of the financial services salesman.

But a quick glance behind the glossy advertisements tells a bleak tale. The fact is that, either through incompetence or laziness, over a five-year period, two-thirds of institutional managers fail to beat the performance of the FTSE indices.

But they still bulge with money because they know that once the hype has passed that attracted the saver in the first place, investor inertia takes over. In spite of lacklustre results, the customer relies on the devil he knows — at least until the next spicy advertisement comes along. Nor do many institutions appear to hold the companies in which they invest to account.

As a result, all too often, the antics of company managers appear to go unchallenged. To the outsider, some company managers appear to be busier plotting their own inflated salaries, rolling contracts, option schemes and grossly funded pensions than seeking to enhance share values.

And it is the small investor who ends up picking up the tab.

Some institutions do play an essential and responsible role. For example, Alastair Ross Goobey, of Postel, began to oppose rolling contracts that allowed directors three years' pay if they were fired. But it is the exceptions that make the rule. The scope for other

fund managers to ban these contracts appears limited as some of them have similar benefits.

So it is up to the private investor. Why should he bother to slog all the way to an AGM? He has now learnt that if, after a tedious journey, he goes to a dreary venue at an anti-social time, all he is likely to do is to

catch a glimpse of a Daimler-full of proxy votes to be cast in support of the chairman and all his work. So it is hardly surprising that shareholder attendance at AGMs rarely exceeds 0.5 per cent. Catch-22 is complete: boards attest that as the number of investors who attend AGMs is so small why bother about corporate

governance anyway? So who cares? As some indication of institutional inertia, an analyst for the Guild of Shareholders says that out of some 300 AGMs he has attended in the past three years, there has been only one solitary question asked by an institutional shareholder. Of course, most have been given the opportunity to ask their questions in private before handing in their proxies, the common secret ritual to keep the private investor in the dark.

There is only a trickle of questions about the accounts from Sid, who is never made to feel at home by the heavyweight corporate professionals. So he learns even less about the business, while the strategies and essential plans go unexamined.

The investor must ask the Government to do more. The guild is campaigning for tax incentives for investment clubs; rights to access company data identical to those of institutional shareholders; and encouragement for private investors to unite in a representative body, limited by guarantee, non-profit making and non-taxable.

When 20 per cent of shareholders join such a body they should have the right to appoint one non-executive director to the company board. The groups should also be able to circulate details to shareholders annually at the company's expense. Then why now disenfranchise non-attending shareholders from voting at the AGM?

When the private shareholder is seen to be fighting his corner the tide will begin to turn and he will get the sort of consideration his counterparts have come to expect as a right in America and other countries. Once mobilised, private shareholders will prove to be an unstoppable force able to call companies to account.

The author is chairman of the Guild of Shareholders (0129671 5290).

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# Lonesome Train on track for double

By RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

LONESOME TRAIN produced one of the biggest surprises of the season when he collected at Cheltenham on Mackeson day at the rearing Tote odds of 88-1—and the punters still think it was a flash in the pan.

Although the form of the Murphy's Handicap Hurdle has worked out brilliantly and the race was run in an excellent time, Colin Weedon's winner is generally available at 12-1 for the £50,000-added William Hill Hurdle at Sandown today and the trainer from Chiddingfold, near Guildford, is baffled as to why.

"It seems everybody is ig-

**RICHARD EVANS**

Nap: TREASURE AGAIN

(1.00 Chepstow)

Next best: Incheiloch

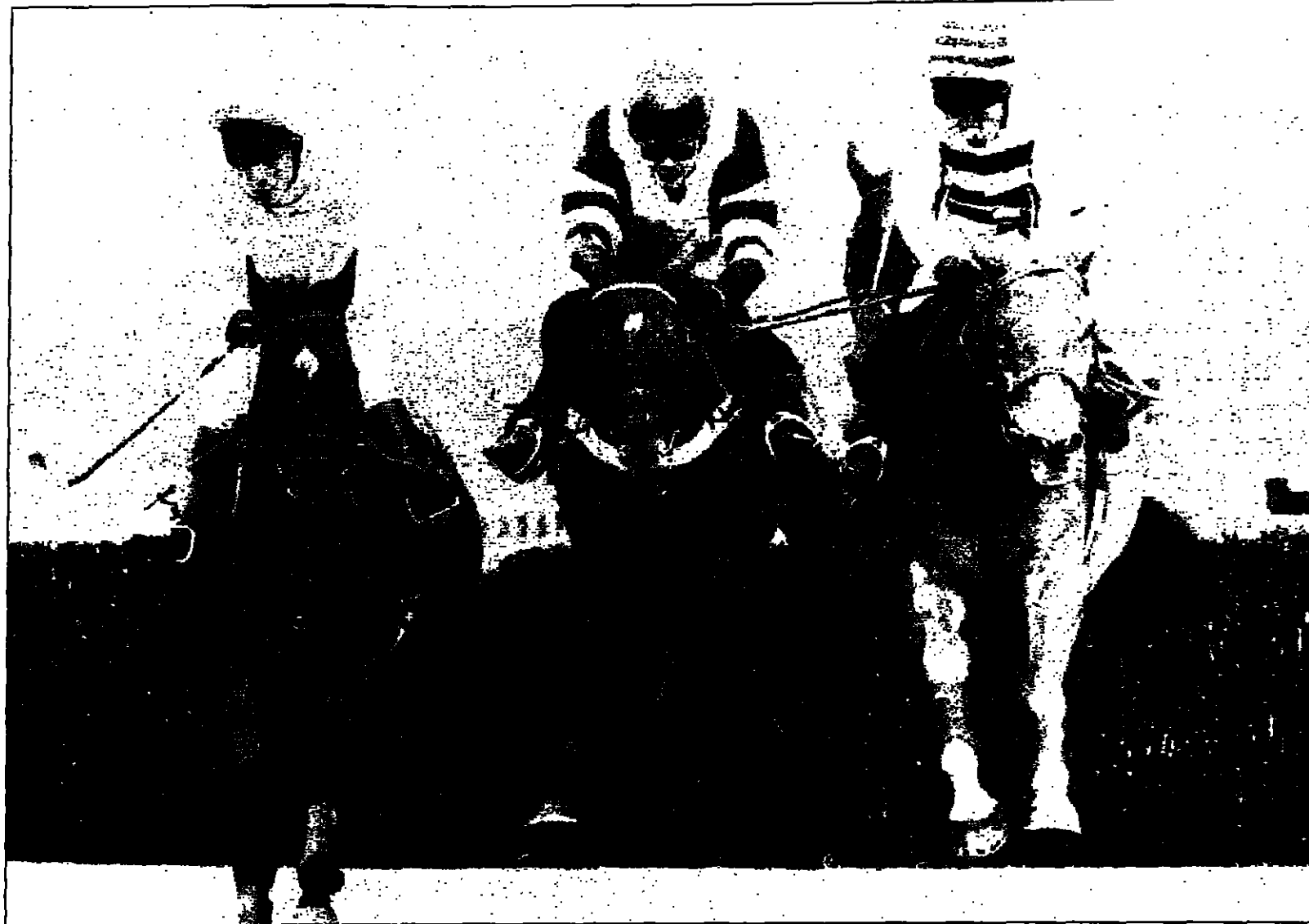
(2.35 Sandown Park)

noring his Cheltenham victory as though it was a fluke," Weedon said yesterday. "But I think it was a very good run. He came off a fast pace and they were strung out at the top of the hill as though it was a three-mile chase."

"Although the handicapper has raised him 14lb, he is running off a mark only 6lb higher today as he was 8lb out of the handicap at Cheltenham. His preparation for Saturday has gone fine and he's in a similar vein of form as he was before his last race. Although it is difficult to fault Bimsey's form, I think my horse has got a great away-chance."

Weedon, who enjoyed considerable success with Miracle Man last season, continued: "Lonesome Train has a high cruising speed, travels well in a race and has run well at Sandown in the past. A stiff two miles is ideal for him."

Bimsey scored impressively for Reg Akehurst at Aintree a fortnight ago but runs off a 16lb higher mark in a race where top weights have a poor record. Sublime Fellow was well backed to win at Ascot on his seasonal reappearance, only to find one too good and the shape of Non Vintage, that form was given a boost when



Viking Flagship, centre, winning a thrilling tussle at Aintree in April, makes his seasonal reappearance in the Tingle Creek Chase today

the winner finished a good third to Padre Mio at Newcastle last Saturday, which gives Nicky Henderson's runner a live chance this afternoon.

Chief's Song, the mount of Richard Dunwoody, bounced back to his best when defeating Putty Road at Cheltenham and looks fairly weighted.

However, at the available odds, Lonesome Train looks a solid each-way proposition. Although only five horses line up for the Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Trophy, it promises to be a vintage clash between the best two-mile chasers in Britain and Ireland. David Nicholson has sent out the winner in five of

the last eight runnings and is doubly represented with Storm Alert and Viking Flagship, the Queen Mother Champion Chase winner, who took this race last year.

The conditions of the race clearly favour Viking Flagship as he meets his rivals on level terms, but the progressive Sound Man has the ground

and race fitness in his favour and Edward O'Grady's talented chaser can prevail today.

While Sound Man is unlikely to be a big price, some value bets are on offer away from the gaze of the television cameras and I would suggest Alternation could reward support at potentially decent odds at Towcester (3.05). She was

not well last season but has shown considerable promise on both outings this term, noticeably at Haydock 17 days ago when she split Smith Too and Yes Man, both previous winners.

The mare, trained by Paul Webber, still looked a shade bulky that day but should be now approaching peak fitness. "She's in very good form and I think the three mile trip will suit her well," Webber said yesterday.

Gordon Richards has opted to run Unguided Missile at Wetherby in the Wharfe Handicap Chase (2.40) rather than take on Smith's Band and Hill of Tullow in the Greyhound trainer looks to have found a winning opportunity for his "very nice and underrated" horse.

## Montelado misses intended comeback

MONTELADO, a leading Irish hope for the Champion Hurdle, will miss his intended return to jumping in tomorrow's Hattons Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse.

The eight-year-old has been restricted by injury to just one run over hurdles in the last two and a half seasons, but is reported "100 per cent sound" and still firmly on course for Cheltenham.

Pat Flynn, his trainer, explained: "He had a slight runny nose, so I had him scoped before declaration time and they found a little mucus in his lungs."

"I won't run him as it would be enough to stop him. I wouldn't run him if it was a maiden hurdle as it might put him off for a month or six weeks."

"The only two races that matter are the Irish and English Champion Hurdles

and if he had to go for them without a prep race it wouldn't bother me," Flynn continued.

Montelado, for whom Richard Dunwoody had been booked, remains a 2-joint favourite for the Champion Hurdle with William Hill. In his absence, Dorans Pride, the Stayers' Hurdle winner, faces just two rivals in Sunday's £140,000 event.

## General Wolfe weighted to take command

CHEPSTOW  
BBC1

1.00: I quite like Treasure Again, who improved with every run over hurdles for Merrita Jones last season until disappointing at Aintree when past his best. This soft-ground lower produced his best performance when going down by a short head to Bear Claw at Cheltenham. Mrs Jones has her string in fine fettle and reports that the six-year-old is sufficiently forward to do himself justice on his reappearance.

New Inn is fairly handicapped but may not appreciate the soft ground. Indian Quest, returning from a long absence, and Idiot's Lady look bigger dangers.

1.30: General Wolfe is one of the best handicapped chasers in training and Tim Foster appears to have found the ideal starting point for what should be a profitable campaign. He signed off last season with victory under top weight at Worcester, with the promise of more to come. Greenhill Tare Away put up an improved performance over hurdles last time and if he can show similar progress over fences would be a big threat.

2.05: Bradbury Star ran well for a long way in the Mackeson until lack of fitness told, but prefers good ground. Master Oats has won on his seasonal reappearance for the past two years, including here last term, and should be forward enough to oblige once again.

**SANDOWN PARK**  
CHANNEL 4

2.00: See left.

2.35: This is probably the best two-mile novice chase of the season so far. Simple Arithmetic ranks high among Kim Bailey's novice chasers but is being pitched in at the deep end. Captain Khedive showed improved form at Cheltenham and is best when there is a fast pace, which is far from guaranteed here. Although Incheiloch beat Certainly Strong by only a length at

Kempton the official winning margin did not reflect the superiority of Jeff King's exciting novice. He is a confident choice.

3.10: See left.

3.40: Simply Dashing, burdened with top weight, is worth opposing. La Menorquina should be thereabouts, but the booking of Richard Dunwoody tips the balance in favour of Neyer So Blue. He has been raised only 4lb for his Nottingham win and could still be ahead of the handicapper.

**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
CHANNEL 4

2.55: Several of these have not raced before on the all-weather which adds to complications. Far Ahead, one of the exceptions, appeared



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

suiting by the step up in trip when obliging at Lingfield 11 days ago. However, Mistiguet is taken to complete a memorable season for David Loder. On her first run since being moved from Richard Hannon's yard, she arguably produced her best form at Haydock when runner-up to Debutante Days, and can go one better here.

RICHARD EVANS

## SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER  
12.50 Hill of Tullow  
1.25 Redemmyself  
2.00 Storm Alert

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 3.40 ANLACE.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

12.50 EWELE CHASE  
(£7,143; 3m 110yds) (4 runners)

1 1134-1 CAMTROY 14 (G.S.) (J. Lewis) S. Chelmsford 5-11-0 J.F. Tilly 98  
2 1204-1 SMITH'S BAND 9 (G.S.) (A. Smith) Mrs J. Parnham 7-11-5 W. Marston 97  
3 2111-1 HILL OF TULLOW 21 (G.S.) (J. Lewis) Mrs J. Parnham 5-11-4 R. Dunwoody 96  
4 4436-1 SANDMAN GALE 5 (G.S.) (R. Stanger) M. Nichol 7-10-10 C. Llewellyn 95

BETTING: 4-5 Hill of Tullow, 2-1 Smith's Band, 5-2 Camtroy, 25-1 Sandman Gale  
1994: YORKSHIRE GALE 5-11-5 (Hill of Tullow 4-5) J. Lewis 3 m

1.25 DOUG BARROTT HANDICAP HURDLE  
(£7,230; 2m 6f) (6 runners)

1 1101-1 BOKAR 245 (G.S.) (A. O'Brien) G. S. Chelmsford 9-12-0 G. Bradley 95  
2 1113-1 ANDAM 28 (G.S.) (J. Lewis) S. Chelmsford 4-10-10 R. Dunwoody 90  
3 0113-1 ROBERTY 28 (G.S.) (J. Lewis) S. Chelmsford 4-10-10 R. Dunwoody 90  
4 1140-1 REDDEMYSSELF 17 (G.S.) (A. Smith) Mrs J. Parnham 7-10-7 P. Marston 97  
5 1140-1 REDDEMYSSELF 17 (G.S.) (A. Smith) Mrs J. Parnham 7-10-7 P. Marston 97  
6 1140-1 REDDEMYSSELF 17 (G.S.) (A. Smith) Mrs J. Parnham 7-10-7 P. Marston 97

Long handicap: Northern Lad 9-15, Kingsford 9-10, 10-1 Storm Alert, 10-1 Kingsford 9-10

BETTING: 2-1 Northern Lad, 5-2 Kingsford, 7-2 Storm Alert, 10-1 Kingsford 9-10

1994: CAS ON TARGET 8-11-9 (Hill of Tullow 4-5) J. Lewis 3 m

2.00 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TINGLE CREEK TROPHY CHASE  
(£30,920; 2m) (5 runners)

1 2135-2 HANBY 22 (G.S.) (J. Lewis) S. Chelmsford 7-11-7 J.F. Tilly 91  
2 1201-1 SOUND MAN 14 (G.S.) (J. Lewis) S. Chelmsford 7-11-7 J.F. Tilly 91  
3 2203-1 STORM ALERT 25 (G.S.) (A. Smith) Mrs J. Parnham 5-11-4 R. Dunwoody 96  
4 1201-1 STORM ALERT 25 (G.S.) (A. Smith) Mrs J. Parnham 5-11-4 R. Dunwoody 96  
5 1201-1 STORM ALERT 25 (G.S.) (A. Smith) Mrs J. Parnham 5-11-4 R. Dunwoody 96

BETTING: 6-4 Sound Man, 5-2 Kingsford, 7-2 Storm Alert, 10-1 Kingsford 9-10

1994: VIKING FLAGSHIP 7-11-7 (Hill of Tullow 4-5) J. Lewis 3 m

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1994: VIKING FLAGSHIP 7-11-7 (Hill of Tullow 4-5) J. Lewis 3 m

3.10 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE  
(£35,550; 2m 110yds) (22 runners)

1 0111-1 BOKAR 245 (G.S.) (A. O'Brien) G. S. Chelmsford 9-12-0 G. Bradley 95  
2 1101-1 BOKAR 245 (G.S.) (A. O'Brien) G. S. Chelmsford 9-12-0 G. Bradley 95  
3 1101-1 BOKAR 245 (G.S.) (A. O'Brien) G. S. Chelmsford 9-12-0 G. Bradley 95  
4 1101-1 BOKAR 245 (G.S.) (A. O'Brien) G. S. Chelmsford 9-12-0 G. Bradley 95  
5 1101-1 BOKAR 245 (G.S.) (A. O'Brien) G. S. Chelmsford 9-12-0 G. Bradley 95

Long handicap: Northern Lad 9-15, Kingsford 9-10, 10-1 Storm Alert, 10-1 Kingsford 9-10

BETTING: 4-5 Hill of Tullow, 2-1 Smith's Band, 5-2 Camtroy, 25-1 Sandman Gale

1994: YORKSHIRE GALE 5-11-5 (Hill of Tullow 4-5) J. Lewis 3 m

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Saturday portrait: Vinnie Jones, by Andrew Longmore

# Notorious hard man battling to leave his mark on game of skill

His favourite sportsman is Mike Tyson, favourite film Rocky, favourite actor Clint Eastwood, favourite comedian Jim Davidson, favourite city Leeds. No one can accuse Vinnie Jones of not fitting the bill. A man's man from his likes and dislikes down to the tattoo announcing "Leeds — Champions Div 2" on his left shin, "FA Cup winners" on his right, and the 16 guns which have pride of place in a purpose-built cabinet at Jones's new mansion in Hertfordshire.

Tomorrow afternoon, the last surviving member of the original Crazy Gang at Wimbledon does battle — for Jones, that is not just a figure of speech — with the FA Cup Premier League leaders Newcastle United, knowing that unless his side resurrect the lost art of winning against the odds the next tattoo might mark a rather less glorious moment in Jones's colourful (predominantly red) career.

After picking up a mere two points from the last nine league matches and sinking from third place to sixteenth, Wimbledon are in danger not merely of relegation, but worse, much worse for a club weaned on deeds of machismo — of being regarded as a soft touch by opponents who once looked forward to the meeting with all the relish of foot soldiers entering the Somme.

A 6-1 thrashing at St James' Park six weeks ago suggested that parting a baby from a bag of jelly beans would have been more taxing than taking three points from Wimbledon and most indicators suggest the same degree of difficulty for Newcastle this time around.

No one will be hurt more deeply by Wimbledon's decline nor work harder to reverse it than Vinnie Jones. But the lingering possibility is that, a month before his 31st birthday, Jones is as much the cause of the problem as the solution, a shaven-headed icon of a bygone era, the umbilical cord which ties Wimbledon to a notorious and, in its course way, glorious past but which is now hindering the club's move towards adulthood. Intimidation, once at the

heart of the Wimbledon Way, is no longer a factor.

The only vestige of the fear which that terrible gap-toothed grin used to inspire in opposing midfielders now lies deep within his own club, where the captain's word is still law and anyone stepping out of line is liable to a dressing-down. A recent dressing-room spat between Jones and Marcus Gayle made the Batty-Le Saux rumpus look like a pillow fight in a public school dorm. More free-for-all than one-for-all, which is a worrying trend for a club famed for its musketeer spirit.

The difficulty is that objective judgment of Jones is buried by an avalanche of prejudice, half-truths and image, all of which Jones has encouraged. Those who know Jones well defend him to the hilt, following the "diamond geezer"

**'A shaven-headed icon of a bygone era, the umbilical cord that ties the club to its past'**

line of character reference and answering a hypothetical question once asked by Jones himself. "At the end of the day, who would you rather have in the trenches with you, Gary Lineker or Vinnie Jones?"

Only Wimbledon have ever mistaken football for trench warfare, but the sentiments, say the defenders, are spot on. Jones is an inspirational leader, badly misunderstood by the public, badly handled by biased referees and unfit for Premiership consumption. "He's a better player than people give him credit for," his present manager, Joe Kinnear, says. But as the Wimbledon captain was voted the worst player of all time by a football magazine poll recently, that is not quite the advertisement it might be. Nor is the indictment quite true.

A 30-yard volley, sweetly struck just over the bar, in the recent

draw with Middlesbrough is not conclusive proof of genius, but raised an eyebrow or two from those who had come to watch such tricks from Juninho.

The judgment of Howard Wilkinson is probably about right. He bought Jones for £650,000 to take Leeds United out of the second division and, when the job had been done, discarded him within a month of the new season in the top league.

Don Howe, who coached Jones and Wimbledon to their unlikely FA Cup triumph in 1988, describes a man far removed from the public's imagination. "Vinnie is a very kind man," he said. "I remember once when he won a television set as man of the match he took it straight down to the local children's hospital. He'll spend a lot of time around Christmas visiting the kids and they love him. If someone needs an auctioneer for a charity function, someone to get people going, it will always be Vinnie." But how come it is always Vinnie when the red cards are handed out?

"He's Jekyll and Hyde. It's not that he loses his temper but that he wants to win so badly he goes for tackles he shouldn't. Often, on the side, I'd be saying to myself, 'Don't go for it, you can't get it, and he'll go diving in. The referees know it's him and so do the crowds. It's not the refs' fault, Vinnie has earned that reputation. It's exuberance.'"

Jones's uncultured method of tackling, six foot and 12 stone launched from five yards off, still bears the mark of his old days as a hod carrier and semi-professional before Dave Bassett brought him to Wimbledon for £10,000. He has not, it seems, learnt much about subtlety since. "The brain of a mosquito," as the Wimbledon chairman, Sam Hammam, so fondly put it.

A record over the past year of three red cards, one in his second international for Wales, and one journalist's nose bitten suggests that Jones has learnt neither contrition nor common sense in his old age. However unjust some of his dismissals, a career total of 11 and counting defies pure coincidence as well as Jones's claim that

he is a changed man. It is one thing to talk, as Jones does now, about wanting to be left alone with his wife, Tanya, and his baby son, Aaron; about the magical transformation of the wild old Jones Boy into simple Squire Jones with his gun dogs, brogues and animal farm. Playing the grown-up footballer has proved more difficult. Notoriety cannot be dismissed as easily as he can.

Besides, stunts like Soccer's Hard Men, the video in which he

explains the technique of running your studs down an opponent's Achilles tendon and picking him up by the hair under his armpits, allied to such tasty tabloid fodder as "if their top geezer gets sorted out early doors, you win" (a reference to his physical subjection of Steve McMahon in the 1988 Cup final) and pictures of him grabbing Paul Gascoigne's shorts during a cup tie against Newcastle, have turned an ordinary footballer with a handsome long throw into a

cult figure, so acceptably established these days that he was even asked to lecture to the boys at Eton College.

Whether by chance or design, Jones has made a good living out of playing the common man, so deserves limited sympathy when the image overtakes reality. The referees might actually be doing Vinnie a favour by perpetuating the myth.

What then is the verdict on Jones? A better player than people

think, a worse one than Wimbledon think, a good companion for the trenches, an ill-tempered thug, a loveable rogue, an honest professional, a diamond geezer? Jones is probably all of those and more.

He certainly brings to mind the immortal words of James Cagney, "for sure, he ain't no Angel Gabriel". But Newcastle might be interested to know that Vinnie is also an incurable romantic — his favourite footballer is Glenn Hoddle.

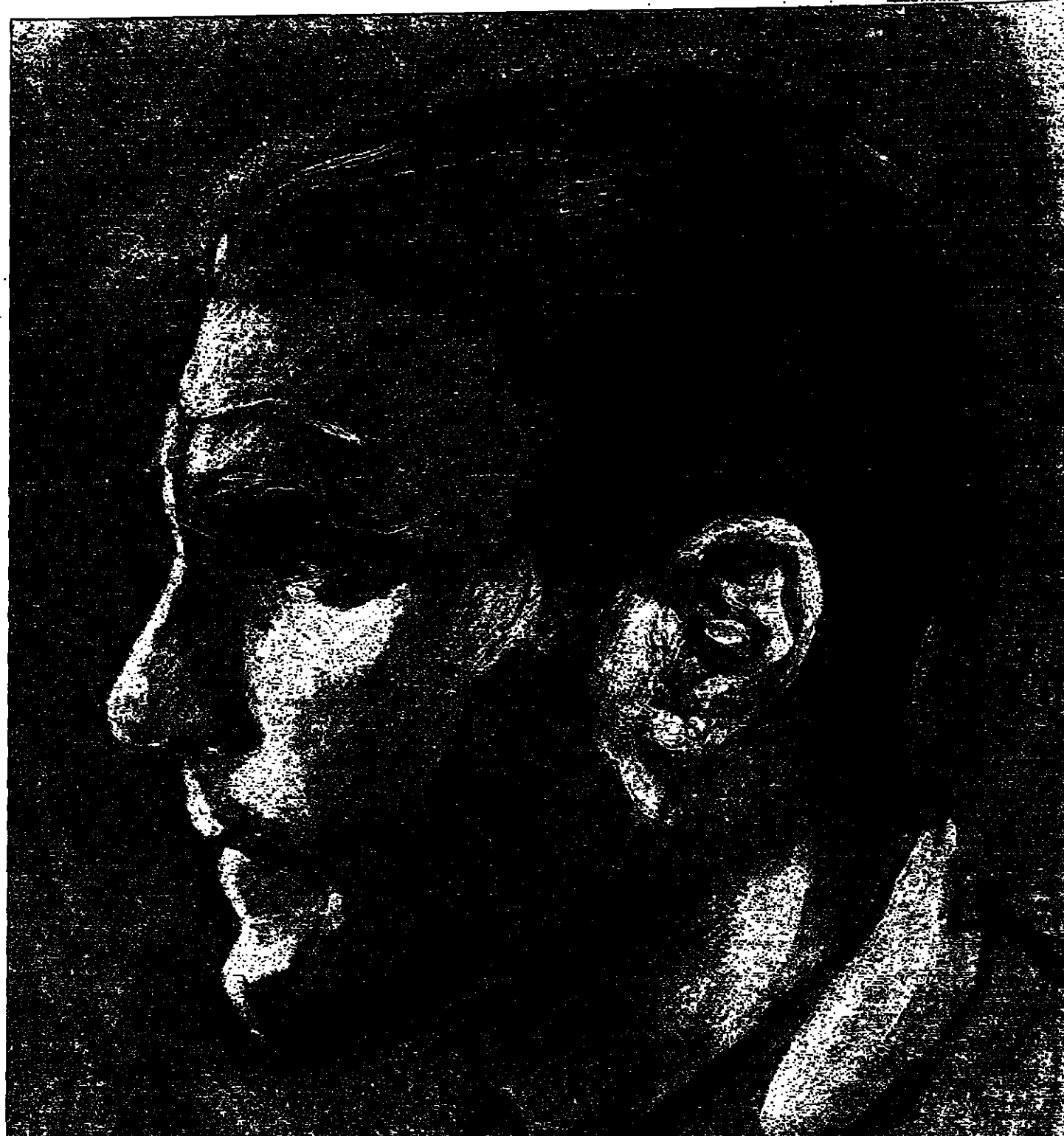


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

## THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

**ASTON VILLA v ARSENAL**

Arsenal's 2-1 Coca-Cola Cup victory over Sheffield Wednesday in midweek was a triumph for Bruce Broughton's adventurous 4-3-3 formation, in which Bergkamp, Wright, Harrison in attack, and Merson and Platt in midfield, fused as if one. Even Jensen, not noted for his extra-energetic artistry, provided the perfect counter-balance when his team-mates boldly went where few had gone before. A pity, then, that Bergkamp may miss his first match for Arsenal, after nine goals in 19 matches, with a calf muscle strain. If so, lucky Villa.

**LAST SEASON:** Aston Villa 0 Arsenal 4.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-4, 0-4, —, 0-5, 2-1, 0-0, 3-1, 1-0, 1-2, 0-4.

**How they line up**

**ASTON VILLA (from):** M. Børnigh, G. Charles, U. Ekegren, P. McGrath, G. Southgate, A. Wright, M. Jensen, D. Toresani, D. Yorke, S. Moseley, T. Johnson, S. Staunton, R. Scammell, N. Spink, F. Carr.

**ARSENAL (from):** D. Seaman, L. Dixon, S. Bould, A. Adams, N. Winterburn, D. Platt, P. Merson, J. Jensen, I. Wright, D. Bergkamp, J. Harrison, M. Keown, D. Hillier, G. Helder, G. Morrow, V. Berriman.

**BLACKBURN v WEST HAM**

Alan Shearer's mystifying lack of goals for England — none in eight matches — may be part-explained by the words of wisdom he imparted to Radio 4 last week after a recent international. "We haven't been scoring goals but football's not just about scoring goals," he said. "It's about winning." Of course it was so obvious. Blackburn have won only once, albeit 7-0, in four Premiership outings, while West Ham have lost only once in nine. Martin (37 years) is out, because of injury, but Dicke (55 bookings) is back, from suspension.

**LAST SEASON:** Blackburn 0 West Ham 0.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-4, 0-4, —, 0-5, 2-1, 0-0, 3-1, 1-0, 1-2, 0-4.

**How they line up**

**BLACKBURN (from):** T. Flowers, H. Berg, G. Le Saux, C. Hendry, J. Kinnear, T. Sherwood, M. McGuffee, D. Batty, S. Ripley, A. Shearer, M. Newell, C. Sutton, L. Schuster, P. Wiltshire, G. Fenton, N. Galloway.

**WEST HAM (from):** L. Mioduski, S. Potts, J. Dicke, T. Bressan, M. Rafter, J. Harkes, D. Slater, D. Williams, A. Cotes, M. Hughes, I. Dowds, D. Hutchison, M. Boag, S. Lazardis, L. Sealey.

**BOLTON v NOTTINGHAM FOREST**

Quite why Bolton, propping up the Premiership, should express an interest in paying £200,000 for Scott Sellers — a speedy, often invisible, little winger — will need a good deal of explaining from Roy McFarland, the manager at Burnden Park.

In their present predicament, a grating, all-action, no-nonsense midfielder might have been more appropriate. Compromise? Forest are without Roy and Lee up front but Campbell and Gillett are fit to play — if they can displace the boys McGregor and Howe.

**LAST SEASON:** No fixture.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-4, 0-4, —, 0-5, 2-1, 0-0, 3-1, 1-0, 1-2, 0-4.

**How they line up**

**BOLTON (from):** K. Brannigan, S. Green, J. Phillips, S. Curcio, G. Bergerson, C. Paterson, G. Teggart, A. Todd, J. McGinley, A. Thompson, S. McInnes, F. de Freitas, A. Laidon, R. Swales, W. Burns.

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from):** M. Crossley, D. Lytle, S. Pearce, C. Cooper, A. I. Healand, S. Stone, C. Bart-Williams, S. Gormley, P. McGregor, S. Howe, I. Woan, K. Campbell, A. Stenz, D. Phillips, R. Irving.

**LEEDS v MANCHESTER CITY**

Alan Ball, manager of the month? Wingman of the month, perhaps, but surely not ahead of Keegan, France, or Riech in the November stakes. Strange... but true. City's record of three 1-0 home wins and a draw, and their mind-warping elevation to seventeenth place in the Premiership, swayed the judges in Ball's favour. December might not start off so promisingly, with City having won only once at Elland Road in the last two years. If history is repeated today, Ball can have a good old moan again. What bliss.

**LAST SEASON:** Leeds 2 Manchester City 0.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-4, 0-4, —, 0-5, 2-1, 0-0, 3-1, 1-0, 1-2, 0-4.

**How they line up**

**LEEDS (from):** J. Laidon, G. Kelly, D. Whitham, R. Johnson, C. Palmer, A. Dorrigo, S. Dwyer, M. Tricker, G. McAllister, G. Speed, T. Brown, A. Vetch, J. Pemberton, N. Worthington, K. Whelan, R. Wallace, A. Coates, M. Ford.

**MANCHESTER CITY (from):** E. Emmel, R. Edgell, S. Lortie, K. Gullis, G. Kinnear, N. Quinn, G. Piltz, I. Brightwell, K. Symons, N. Summerville, U. Roster, G. Creaney, A. Kermeghan, A. Colon.

**LIVERPOOL v SOUTHAMPTON**

Six matches without a win, including five defeats, and only two goals scored. What is going on at Anfield? "We must get the ball forward quicker," a senior player said. "We must get back to passing the ball," another said. To keep his disidents happy, Roy Evans will play 3-5-2 in the first half and 4-4-2 in the second. Not that it will matter, judging by Southampton's dismal Coca-Cola side at Reading on Tuesday. Everton will have a fierce test, as will Le Tissier, on his broken heart.

**LAST SEASON:** Liverpool 3 Southampton 1.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-0, 1-1, 2-0, 3-2, 0-0, 1-1, 4-2, 3-1.

**How they line up**

**LIVERPOOL (from):** D. James, R. Jones, S. Harkness, P. Babb, M. Wright, J. Scally, J. Barnes, S. McGarvey, M. Kennedy, R. Fowler, S. Collins, N. Clough, A. Wimmer, D. Moffat.

**SOUTHAMPTON (from):** D. Bossant, J. Dodd, P. Bani, R. Hall, K. Morlock, A. Neilson, B. Venison, J. Magilton, M. Le Tissier, M. Maddison, D. Sturges, G. Watson, C. Warren, T. Widdington, F. Bennett.

**MANCHESTER UNITED v CHELSEA**

Schmeichel has given United the elbow for a couple of weeks, while he recovers from surgery, and Alex Ferguson is also without Keane and Butt, who are suspended. Respective form figures suggest a home advantage but Chelsea have a bold record at Old Trafford — only two defeats in their last 20 visits. Hughes returns to his former home and, most important of all, there should be plenty of opportunities for Matthew Harding, Chelsea's favourite director, and his back-slapping, Guinness-sipping entourage.

**LAST SEASON:** Manchester United 0 Chelsea 0.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-2, 0-1, 3-1, —, 0-0, 2-3, 1-1, 3-0, 0-1, 0-0.

**How they line up**

**MAN UTD (from):** K. Pilkington, G. Neville, S. Bruce, G. Pollard, D. Irwin, D. Beckham, B. McCair, R. Gigg, E. Cantona, P. Scholes, A. Cole, P. Newell, L. Sharpe, D. May.

**CHELSEA (from):** D. Kheirine, M. Duberry, D. Lee, F. Sinclair, A. Myers, G. Hall, E. Newton, D. Petrescu, C. Burley, N. Spence, D. Wise, M. Hughes, J. Spencer, P. Furlong, A. Barnes, R. Gullik, K. Hildrick.

**QPR v MIDDLESBROUGH**

Many visiting supporters were taken aback by the appearance of Rangers' 85th-minute substitute in their 1-0 Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Villa Park on Wednesday. Could he be, they thought, the very same £1.5 million striker the club had bought two months previously and yet failed to unleash on an unsuspecting public? Indeed, he was. Mark Hateley was back, albeit for only 24 minutes, after recovering from knee surgery. Such is Rangers' plight, he will have to make up for lost time, immediately.

**LAST SEASON:** No fixture.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-0, 0-0, —, 0-0, 0-0, —, 3-0, —.

**How they line up**

**QPR (from):** J. Sommer, D. Bardsley, A. McDonald, K. Ready, S. Yates, D. Macleod, R. Brevett, M. Beaton, G. Barker, I. Holliday, A. Impy, S. Osborn, R. Wilkins, T. Sinclair, D. Dickie, K. Gallen, M. Hateley, A. Roberts, T. Chaffin.

**MIDDLESBROUGH (from):** G. Walsh, N. Cox, S. Vickers, N. Pearson, C. Liddle, C. Morris, N. Barry, J. Pollock, G. Hignett, P. Stamp, A. J. Floroff, Juninho, G. Blackmore.

**TOTTENHAM v EVERTON**

Duncan Ferguson-line accorded a VIP return to the red world last week. A chauffeur-driven car from Gillingham prison and a hero's welcome at Goodison Park. Yuck, yuck and thud! yuck! The Royals, the Everton manager, then compounded such a gross error of judgment by sending the Fourth Estate for Ferguson's self-indulgence. "Don't you think you've done enough to the lad already?" he told the press. The answer, of course, is yes. Ferguson will keep Duncan Ferguson from leaving White Hart Lane this afternoon.

**LAST SEASON:** Tottenham 2 Everton 1.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 0-1, 2-0, 1-1, 2-1, 3-3, 3-3, 2-1, 3-2, 2-1.

**How they line up**

**TOTTENHAM (from):** J. Walker, D. Hughes, D. Howells, G. Mabbutt, E. Spivey, R. G. Armstrong, R. B. Smith, G. Caldwell, J. O'Sullivan, G. Campbell, R. Fox, J. Edgar, G. McMillan, C. Day.

**EVERTON (from):** N. Southern, M. Jackson, D. Watson, R. Unwin, C. Sheen, A. Vanchichev, A. Urquhart, J. Edwards, J. Pennington, A. Kanchelskii, G. Stuart, D. Armstrong, S. Horne, J. Keaton, A. Grant.

**WIMBLEDON v NEWCASTLE**

Kevin Keegan is a touch wary of talking on wounded Wimbledon. "We've never won there and never deserved to," he said. Adding fuel to his team's woes, the former Liverpool striker has an almost legendary and suspension-free record at the stadium for the last five years. If Keegan's signing was to be believed, Wimbledon's last match was a defeat at Portsmouth in a 1-0 loss to come from behind. Ferdinand is fit, though, after his earlier conflict with Mark Wright in midweek, and leads the team into the Valley of Sn.

**LAST SEASON:** Wimbledon 3 Newcastle 2.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-0, 0-0, 4-0, —, 0-0, 0-0, —, 0-0, 0-0, —.

**How they line up**

**WIMBLEDON (from):** P. Heald, K. Cunningham, C. Perry, A. Pearce, A. Thorn, A. Ffrench, A. Keady, G. Edwards, V. Jones, G. Leacock, S. Blease, J. Goodman, E. Foster, D. Holdsworth, J. Elliot, M. Gaffey, A. Charles.

**NEWCASTLE (from):** S. Vialto, W. Barton, J. Bennet, D. Preece, S. Hooton, K. Gillespie, R. Lee, J. Clark, D. Givens, P. Bardsley, L. Pennington, G. Pearson, R. Elliott, P. Snelson.

### HOW THEY STAND

	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	16	+22	DWWDW
2 Manchester Utd	15	+33	WLWWD
3 Arsenal	15	+28	LWLWL
4 Aston Villa	15	+27	WWWDW
5 Tottenham	15	+26	WDWWD
6 Middlesbrough	15	+26	WDWLW
7 Nottingham Forest	14	+25	WDWLW
8 Liverpool	14	+24	WLWLW
9 Leeds	14	+24	WDWLW
10 West Ham	15	+20	WLWLW
11 Chelsea	15	+20	WLWLW
12 Everton	15	+19	WDWLW
13 Blackburn	15	+18	WLWLW
14 Southampton	15	+15	WLWLW
15 Sheffield Wed	15	+14	WLWLW
16 Wimbledon	15	+12	WLWLW
17 Manchester City	15	+12	WLWLW
18 QPR	15	+11	WLWLW
19 Coventry	15	+9	WLWLW
20 Bolton	15	+8	WLWLW

**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v COVENTRY**

Woe upon woe piles upon woe for the Blues. One Premiership win in 15 attempts, three players sent off in their last two matches and a midweek Coca-Cola Cup exit against a hardly renowned Wolves. It is not as if the dynamic duo have not exceeded their options, with 27 players already used this season. David Platt also has his headaches — Wednesday have talked about his return to the league — but at least they look like doing something. Coventry are starting at a bleak Christmas and an even bleaker New Year.

**LAST SEASON:** Sheffield Wednesday 5 Coventry 1.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 2-2, 2-2, 0-3, 1-4, 0-0, —, 1-1, 1-1, 0-0, 0-1.

**How they line up**

**SHEFF WED (from):** K. Preece, I. Nolan, S. Strickland, S. Jones, P. Atkinson, D. Walker, C. Waddie, G. Ayoko, B. West, G. Whittington, R. Straker, M. Dwyer, M. Beaton, M. Gifford, J. Wicks, C. Woods.

**COVENTRY (from):** S. Ogrizovic, R. Shaw, D. Rennie, P. Williams, M. Hall, G. Strachan, K. Richardson, J. Selsby, P. Ndlovu, D. Duffin, A. Pickering, P. Cook, J. Platt, P. Teller.

**WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION**

**Today**

10.45pm BBC-1 Match of the Day (highlights)

**Tomorrow**

12 noon Sky Sports 2 Goals on Sunday

8.30 Sky Sports 2 Ford Escort Super Sunday

Wimbledon v Newcastle (live)

**Monday**

7.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football

Sheffield Wednesday v Coventry (live)







Batting collapse gives South Africa first-innings lead of 132

## England dismissed out of hand

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG (second day of five): South Africa, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 137 runs ahead of England

ENGLAND have been contemplating this second Test match for too long and now, such has been the confusion in their strategy and the carelessness in their cricket, they may be regretting it for even longer. The extraordinary decision to surrender the initiative by bowling first was fully exposed yesterday, but it was not the sole cause of England's plight, for their batting was so brittle and fatalistic as to be unacceptable whatever the stage of the game.

Their total of 200 was their lowest in a first innings since the fateful events at Edgbaston in July. There are no gremlins in the surface at the Wanderers to compare with the Birmingham minefield, but, as there is also no doubt that the pitch will deteriorate over the three remaining days, an innings deficit of 132 is close to conclusive.

Six weeks into the tour and with the series still awaiting a proper launch, England have fallen into the trap of those with time on their hands. They have been guilty of hatching

Waugh stand firm ..... 42

overelaborate plans, flying in the face of precedent and logic, and they could pay for it by giving away control of the series to South Africa.

It is difficult to identify any area of England's second-day performance worthy of praise, with the exception of a resolute innings in severe adversity, at team and personal level, by Robin Smith. Openly doubted, before the game, by the England manager, Raymond Illingworth, Smith made 52 with characteristic tenacity. He, at least, can now plan for a future in this series, which is more than can confidently be said about Angus Fraser and Mark Ramprakash.

Fraser's bowling, when off colour, can look ploddingly inoffensive and it was punished sternly yesterday morning as South Africa's last three wickets added 54 important runs in 70 minutes. The borderline between dependability and predictability is narrow and Fraser has overstepped it here. It comes hard to criticise such a Trojan but he is plainly in need of more work — which casts grave doubt on the decision to rest him from the previous game — or of replacement by someone offering greater variety.

Ramprakash's problem is entirely different. Unlike Fraser, his talents are silky and enigmatic but equally unlike Fraser, his achievements at Test level are minimal. The expectations are now affecting him chronically, so that he seems unwilling or unable to play a shot in anger. Yesterday, he batted virtually



Smith, who put up stout resistance while England wickets tumbled around him, takes evasive action at the Wanderers ground yesterday

an hour and faced 35 balls, of which he laid the bat on only four and scored from only one. When Allan Donald plucked out his middle stump it was almost merciful. Could this really be the same player whose reaction to being dropped by England in mid-summer was to pass 100 nine times in 16 innings for Middlesex?

There is, of course, no strict correlation between Test and county form, though the three clubs still trying to entice Shaun Pollock to England next summer will be under-termed by the point. Apart from the mortification of spilling as simple a catch as can have gone down at this level, Pollock is having another fine game. He took three England wickets late in the day, having begun it by pulling Devon Malcolm's first ball for four on the way to a breezy 33.

Malcolm finally got his man — and through another ambitious pull — but not before Pollock had made 30 of the 36 added for the eighth wicket. Dominic Cork was summoned to remove Clive Eksteen, completing his sec-

ond five-wicket analysis for England, while Malcolm finished with four, and vindication for his inclusion, after bowling Donald.

There was already a suspicion that England had conceded too many runs. It took only as long as the third over of England's reply, and the sight of Michael Atherton shouldering arms to a ball from

Donald that clipped his off stump, to be sure that South Africa were the favourites.

Atherton's importance to England is oppressive: lose him early and one always fears the worst. Ramprakash's excruciating hour, and an oddly unconvincing innings from Alec Stewart, did nothing to dispel the concern. England, indeed, might easily

have been 51 for four after Ramprakash's end, for Graham Thorpe received the benefit of the doubt when padding up to Pringle's inswinger and Stewart, top-edging a pull against Donald to mid-wicket, was marching smartly towards the pavilion by the time the gift was spurned.

With rich irony, the middle of the England innings was

taken out by spin, a variety they themselves considered surplus to requirements. Eksteen, whose five previous Test wickets cost him 359 runs, now took three for nine. He was fortunate to remove Thorpe with his first ball, for he appeared to make contact only with pad when adjudged caught at short leg, but Hick and Russell both perished to ill-judged attacking shots against the flighted ball.

Stewart had gone in a way that summed up England's middle-headed cricket. It was the last over before tea, an imminent haven after a torrid session, when he clipped Pringle loosely off his legs to a man at short mid-wicket set expressly for the shot. Cork was caught low down at first slip and Pollock was too quick and too straight for Gough and Fraser respectively.

Smith, past 50 but with only Malcolm left for company, returned a catch to McMillan off the leading edge and tossed his bat in the air in irritation. A sense of anticlimax, after so long spent waiting and planning, was England's overwhelming emotion last night.

## Children face future with many colours

Clement Freud finds a bright spot as England collapse in Johannesburg

Another bad day for South Africa's minister for water: the sun shone from a uniformly azure sky, scorched the terrain and, in the uncovered stand, in which you can bake for £1 a day, shirtlessness prevailed.

Inside the main gate, two patriotic schoolmas painted the faces of volunteer children; a green nose with yellow cheeks signifying Bok support, a distant second in popularity to the more colourful red, blue, green and white of the ANC banner. Noses tended to be red, ears blue, parents alarmed.

Vendors of merchandise who yesterday concentrated on the home team's emblems are now offering England hats but the best seller remains a ten-rand Coca-Cola balloon, shaped like a sledgehammer, with which the small monsters in the family enclosure lay about each other. A platoon of trained-to-the-minute scratchcard salesmen roam the perimeter.

At 9.30 in the barbecue area, a heavyweight Afrikaaner, wearing shorts and with a comb protruding from his sock, was frying himself breakfast: eight thick rashers of smoked bacon brushed with honey sizzled appetisingly around a mound of field mushrooms. There would be eggs, when the time was right.

Cricket, ever a joyous game, is now becoming more labour intensive. In the beginning there were two umpires; then there were three, the third charged with reviewing critical decisions in the light of TV replays. Now there are four; their names are announced on the public address system and entered in the official record.

"What work did you do, grandfather?" children will ask when King William V occupies our throne. And the old man will reply: "I was a fourth umpire: it was a steady job. As I never did anything, there was no cause for anyone to criticise my work. I never had a bad game. It was a job for life."

Cricket played at the highest level, as it is here at the Wanderers, can never be taken for granted. It is a brave man who says "nothing is going to happen for a while" and embarks on a visit to the ice-cream van ... which is how I missed the dismissal of Pollock, Eksteen and Donald.

Determined to miss no more, I had a brief luncheon in the barbecue area where gastronomes season their meats with Tabasco, coriander, mustard seed and olive oil while the rest salivate over tenderised topside sprinkled with "barbecue flavouring". The dish of the day was Cumberland sausage sold by the yard, so difficult to turn over on the grill that bits of sausage fly through the air with the greatest of grease.

Rather as transatlantic football scribes specialise in defence (pronounced defence) or offence, or in monitoring the performances of referee and line judges, so would I like to be a specialist cricket

writer. Subject: opening partnerships. "By our opening partnership correspondent" is the byline of my dreams. Not only is this an important part of an innings, helping to determine the eventual outcome and therefore deserving of in-depth analysis, but, on a good day, I could get away long before the departing crowd makes egress uncomfortable.

South Africa's openers only lasted half an hour but their first wicket fell in bizarre circumstances deserving elaboration. A dismissal accepted by the world's press as being "lbw" was amended to "caught gully", necessitating a new page of Windows 95 to right the misunderstanding.

England's openers, too, were worthy of more words than I am allowed ... with Atherton shouldering arms to a ball that nipped back and removed his bails. "Not the best way of getting out," Ian Botham opined, "nor the worst." The latter, in his view, is being run out by Boycott before you have faced a ball.

## JOHANNESBURG SCOREBOARD

England won toss	South Africa: First Innings	England: First Innings	South Africa: Second Innings
A C Hudson c Stewart b Cork (29min, 27 balls) 0	A C Hudson c Stewart b Cork (29min, 27 balls) 0	A C Hudson c Stewart b Cork (29min, 27 balls) 0	A C Hudson c Stewart b Cork (29min, 27 balls) 0
G Kirtin c Russell b Malcolm (23min, 24 balls, 16 fours) 110	G Kirtin c Russell b Malcolm (23min, 24 balls, 16 fours) 110	G Kirtin c Russell b Malcolm (23min, 24 balls, 16 fours) 110	G Kirtin c Russell b Malcolm (23min, 24 balls, 16 fours) 110
*W J George c Russell b Cork (29min, 51 balls, 6 fours) 35	*W J George c Russell b Cork (29min, 51 balls, 6 fours) 35	*W J George c Russell b Cork (29min, 51 balls, 6 fours) 35	*W J George c Russell b Cork (29min, 51 balls, 6 fours) 35
D J Cullinan c Russell b Hick (16min, 12 balls, 10 fours) 69	D J Cullinan c Russell b Hick (16min, 12 balls, 10 fours) 69	D J Cullinan c Russell b Hick (16min, 12 balls, 10 fours) 69	D J Cullinan c Russell b Hick (16min, 12 balls, 10 fours) 69
J N Rhodes c Russell b Cork (22min, 14 balls) 5	J N Rhodes c Russell b Cork (22min, 14 balls) 5	J N Rhodes c Russell b Cork (22min, 14 balls) 5	J N Rhodes c Russell b Cork (22min, 14 balls) 5
B M McMillan b b Cork (25min, 70 balls, 7 fours) 35	B M McMillan b b Cork (25min, 70 balls, 7 fours) 35	B M McMillan b b Cork (25min, 70 balls, 7 fours) 35	B M McMillan b b Cork (25min, 70 balls, 7 fours) 35
S M Pollock c Smith b Malcolm (25min, 45 balls, 5 fours) 33	S M Pollock c Smith b Malcolm (25min, 45 balls, 5 fours) 33	S M Pollock c Smith b Malcolm (25min, 45 balls, 5 fours) 33	S M Pollock c Smith b Malcolm (25min, 45 balls, 5 fours) 33
C E Eksteen c Russell b Cork (29min, 38 balls, 1 four) 13	C E Eksteen c Russell b Cork (29min, 38 balls, 1 four) 13	C E Eksteen c Russell b Cork (29min, 38 balls, 1 four) 13	C E Eksteen c Russell b Cork (29min, 38 balls, 1 four) 13
M W Pringle not out (30min, 10 balls, 2 fours) 10	M W Pringle not out (30min, 10 balls, 2 fours) 10	M W Pringle not out (30min, 10 balls, 2 fours) 10	M W Pringle not out (30min, 10 balls, 2 fours) 10
A A Donald b Malcolm (29min, 38 balls, 1 four) 0	A A Donald b Malcolm (29min, 38 balls, 1 four) 0	A A Donald b Malcolm (29min, 38 balls, 1 four) 0	A A Donald b Malcolm (29min, 38 balls, 1 four) 0
Extras (b 1, lb 14, w 2, nb 5) 22	Extras (b 1, lb 14, w 2, nb 5) 22	Extras (b 1, lb 14, w 2, nb 5) 22	Extras (b 1, lb 14, w 2, nb 5) 22
Total (104 overs, 448min) 232	Total (104 overs, 448min) 232	Total (104 overs, 448min) 232	Total (104 overs, 448min) 232
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (Kirtin 11; 2-74 (Kirtin 34); 3-211 (Kirtin 95); 4-221 (Kirtin 101); 5-260 (McMillan 26); 6-260	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (Kirtin 11; 2-74 (Kirtin 34); 3-211 (Kirtin 95); 4-221 (Kirtin 101); 5-260 (McMillan 26); 6-260	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (Kirtin 11; 2-74 (Kirtin 34); 3-211 (Kirtin 95); 4-221 (Kirtin 101); 5-260 (McMillan 26); 6-260	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (Kirtin 11; 2-74 (Kirtin 34); 3-211 (Kirtin 95); 4-221 (Kirtin 101); 5-260 (McMillan 26); 6-260

## Hardcastle savours sweet taste of gold at last

FROM CRAIG LORD  
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

Hardcastle: retribution

THERE could have been no better place than Copacabana beach for Sarah Hardcastle finally to enjoy her moment in the sun. Before 7,000 screaming Brazilians here yesterday, she became world short-course champion at 800 metres freestyle at the Arena pool, nine years after retiring with medals whose colour, silver and bronze, was mainly dictated by an East German machine.

How sweet was the retribution for Hardcastle, 26, as she passed Dagmar Hase, of Germany, with 200 metres to go and went on to give Britain its first success of these world short-course championships on a day

that saw Karen Pickering unable to defend her title in the 200 metres freestyle, after failing to make the final.

Hase, Olympic champion at 400 metres freestyle, was the opponent who had dedicated her title to Astrid Strauss, the only East German to test positive for steroids and the woman who kept Hardcastle a stroke away from glory in the mid-Eighties.

Hardcastle, who will stay in Brazil on honeymoon with her husband, Lee Thomas, after the championships end on Sunday, held off the challenge of Carla Guerts, of Holland, to win by 0.57sec in 8min 26.46sec.

"It was sheer delight," said Hardcastle. "I knew I had Hase. It

was like a flashback. This makes up for all the pain of so many seconds and thirds. At last, I got a gold." Hase faded over the final 100 metres, allowing Luo Ping, of China, to take the bronze medal.

Hardcastle's success was partly overshadowed by the news that two of Britain's three world short-course champions of 1993, Mark Foster and Pickering, have tested positive for illegal substances this year. Cannabis and Salbutamol, a drug used to treat asthma, were found in samples taken from Foster at the French championships in July, according to the French swimming federation.

Foster, who will not defend his 50 metres title here, faces an appeal commission in two weeks, when he

can elect to defend himself. Pickering also tested positive for Salbutamol, but the drug is not banned by the International Swimming Federation (FINA) if it is inhaled and the swimmer involved has registered as an asthmatic with his or her federation as a regular user. It is banned if injected, when levels are very high. In Pickering's case, the matter was resolved and the swimmer cleared only two days before she came to Rio.

The second day of the world short-course championships brought world records for Samantha Riley, of Australia, with 2min 20.85sec in the 200 metres breaststroke and Claudia Poll, of Costa Rica, with 1min 55.42sec in the 200 metres freestyle.

Meanwhile, the frenzy over

"Franzi" rumbled on here yesterday as swimming's enfant terrible lived up to her arrogant reputation and withdrew from all races bar the relays. Having whetted the appetites of all who admire her formidable talent, Franziska van Almsick, a world champion and millionaire at 17, decided that she was in no mood to take the plunge after having suffered a cold in late October.

The temperamental east Berliner, a star of car and chocolate commercials, had opted to come to Rio because she was over her illness, was fit and felt the Brazilian climate was just the tonic she needed. But after being disqualified for false starting in the 100 metres freestyle on Thursday, she had a sudden change of heart.



Van Almsick: arrogant

GRRR AHA MMM'S PORT

Just roll it round your tongue.











## INSIDE STORY

3



The annual parade is a big event for the children in the Mounted Troop at the riding stable.

Continued from page 1  
while, Dave Foster began the Troop just because he wanted to. "I'd always been into military music and parades. I got hold of an old Ceremonial drill manual, and we got some flags made." He began managing the troop in much the same spirit as he ran a boys' football club for 15 years: for fun. The children pay a small subscription and the cost of an hour's ordinary riding lesson, and get two hours of riding, stable management, and troop drill.

But 18 months ago, after a long career with British Rail, Dave was made redundant. Managers in mid-life are well-advised not to hold their breath while waiting for job offers, so he enrolled at a Suffolk college for an NVQ in Supervisory Management Level 3. Hence, last time I watched a Troop Day there was not only the usual rabble of girls brushing the feet of horses, but also a chap with a notepad sitting in the corner. Mike Hallett, of the Ouley College Business Management Unit. He was solemnly assessing Dave against a list of Attainment Targets, and Dave was teaching Cadet Ainsley Murdoch, 12, how to draw and sheathe a ceremonial sword. "Preparation, drawing, returning. There are correct ways to do all three."

Nicola, already a Corporal, demonstrated the desirable tightness of one's sword belt, attachment of the sling, and that nasty moment when a 5ft person tries to extract a man-sized replica sword and hold it aloft before smartly re-sheathing it without running herself through the thigh. "See — get your elbow behind the body — straight — your arm's going to ache!" Second Lieutenant Rosalind Shaw assured me, a passing nervous mother, that obviously you do it without letting go the reins. And that no, nobody has yet cut the pony's head off by accident. At my elbow, minute Cadet Gem-

ma Murdoch, 8, watches with narrowed eyes. Wait till she gets her sword.

The official Biro flashes busily. Well it might; it transpires later that in teaching Ainsley how to get her sword out, Dave Foster has met no fewer than 19 of the myriad "targets" for his NVQ. More

are met by his presentation on the management structure of the troop, from Parade Commander and NCOs down, and of the cadets' progression through various grades, examined by riding instructors. Horses too are under supervision. "Will Canterella put up with a sword? No, perhaps not, take Angel." There is more wriggling than you generally see among the Household Cavalry, but the final parade is creditable, and ticks go down on the clipboard, totting up Dave's Level III. "They said," Dave admits, "that I could use my BR experience for a course. But I wasn't comfortable with that. It's been a long time. I prefer this. And it is management." Mike Hallett agrees. "Some of our training-for-work students have placements at Telecom or whatever. But it can be anywhere. I assessed the surroundings, inspected his hut, got a picture of the management skills involved. They can be broken down and codified. Things like this should be counted as evidence to offer employers. Why should it just be artists and graphic design-

ers who have portfolios to show? Why shouldn't a manager have a portfolio, too? We have rigorous formative and summative assessment."

And so on. If you are not good at management-course jargon, are only just getting over the shock of your daughter bouncing around with a sword on, it is a bit heavy. But it is some kind of answer to the old complaint, the one which plagues women who take a long family break from paid work, and which now also afflicts men after a period on the dole. The problem is that however much you do in your community — leading Scouts, running Meals on Wheels with steady competence — employers don't rate it. You can be, like Dave, effective and conscientious and never idle; but if it isn't paid it doesn't count. The wider shores of NVQ, with all its absurdities, offer a genuine attempt to give credit where it is due.

Unfortunately, says Mike Hallett, employers so far show "very little evidence that they understand what we offer them. But it's early days. Under any government, NVQ is here to stay. They will get the idea. This is the future."

Dave finds the intricacies of the system baffling even after the baroque ticketing structure of BR; but he is getting his credits, and everybody enjoys the Troop. And frankly, it is better managed than some of the railway ticket offices I could mention these days. So there you are. And, by glorious serendipity, another mid-life between-jobs manager on the same course at Ouley is Colin, a former Lieutenant-Colonel in the Life Guards, who rode at the investiture of the Prince of Wales. Dave, with true managerial initiative, brought him along to a practice.

"He said we're doing an awful lot of things wrong. We knew that. It's entertainment. But he gave us some good hints, like how to tuck your scabbard behind your spur. He's coming again." Colin says: "Well, my reaction was

mixed. Horror, to a degree, and surprise. When you've done all that for real you wonder why anybody does it as a hobby. But I'm very happy to pass on some tricks of the trade."

Which is how it comes about that Suffolk girlhood is earning its spurs with an ex-BR man and a real Life Guard, all in the cause of the educational revolution designed, as the Department of the Environment puts it, to "raise the standard of Britain's skills base and so increase our competitiveness."

Well, it might. Cheer up. Never say life in Britain is not a rich, unpredictable, tapestry.

Front cover image by MARK HARRISON

## Dividends of the gentle touch



Jayne Simmons has built on her aromatherapy skills by taking NVQs in facial massage and wax depilation.

Jayne Simmons describes herself as a "stress management consultant". Based at Egham in Surrey, she talks to clients about their problems and she also applies skills gained in two NVQs, one in the relaxing practice of facial massage, and the other in the more painful art of wax depilation. In 1989, Mrs Simmons was a drilling engineer for an oil company, but she says she was becoming "bitter and twisted" as a result of working in the industry. She accepted the offer of voluntary redundancy, and drifted into her present career. She started dabbling in aromatherapy, and then acquired the skills of massage, reflexology, and waxing through various recognised courses. But with all these skills, and at the age of 31, why did Mrs Simmons need some NVQs? "They give an edge," she says, "especially to the self-employed. It's a nationally recognised qualification, in which one can demonstrate practicality underpinned with written work."

This may sound very party-line, but even the NVQ in Wax Depilation calls for a thorough understanding of anatomy and the physiology of hair follicles, in a course that lasted for three hours a week over ten weeks. The NVQ in Facial Massage took up three months' worth of weekends, in which she had to undertake twenty documented facials involving different skin types. The two courses cost her a total of £350, which was tax deductible because Mrs Simmons is self-employed. Mrs Simmons is not sure whether her clients appreciate her qualifications. "To most people they are just three letters that don't mean much," she says. "But I think the whole project has the workings of a good system, so long as it has decent money put in it."

GUY WALTERS

Ruth Gledhill meets a priest as much at home in a studio as in a church

## Media man with a ministry



WITH its fabulous golden reredos, altar and tabernacle, the ornate stations of the cross, the plain, hard, oak pews, the pretty statue of the Virgin, the Lady altar and the underlying simplicity of the wedding. In the front row were family friends, including the actress Dame Thora Hird and her daughter Jan. Dame Thora recently wrote a book, *Pilgrim in the Holy Land*, with Fr Marshall. She describes how she was travelling in a horse-drawn chariot to

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**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE:**  
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**SERMON:**  
Entertaining romp through the qualities of a modern-day media vicar. ★★

**MUSIC:**  
The church has no choir, but students from the Royal College of Music nearby sang. ★★

**LITURGY:**  
Fr Marshall declared his loyalty to the Thirty-Nine Articles of religion and the Book of Common Prayer and swore allegiance to the Queen. ★★

**SPIRITUAL HIGH:**  
A Royal Family member is reputed to say: "High, but not too high." ★★

**AFTER-SERVICE CARE:**  
A feast. ★★

Fairlink Christian Travel, a pilgrim tour company, and the Diocese of Europe. Parishioners, in an area which has by tradition opposed women priests, are grateful to have him. The previous incumbent, Fr Ken Hewitt, had been there for 38 years. The enormous church dwarfed his regular congregation of 25.

In some respects the service was like a wedding. In the front row were family friends, including the actress Dame Thora Hird and her daughter Jan. Dame Thora recently wrote a book, *Pilgrim in the Holy Land*, with Fr Marshall. She describes how she was travelling in a horse-drawn chariot to

Petra in Jordan when a wheel caught in a hole and it overturned, requiring Fr Marshall to rescue her. The Archdeacon of Middlesex, the Ven Tim Raphael, took the service. Dame Thora read the first lesson, from Corinthians. "Where the spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom," she said. Our Gospel, read by Fr Mark Oakley, a curate at St John's Wood, was Fr Marshall's favourite passage, about the Transfiguration. The Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Roy Williamson, took an anonymous "back seat" in a front pew, and we all wondered what he was doing there until the sermon explained everything. Fr Raphael, a self-effacing man, is transformed in the pulpit into a fiery, eloquent and passionate speaker. He described how Dr Hope, then Bishop of London but now an Archbishop, "stole" Fr Marshall from Bishop Williamson. "Rob's written a book about the Transfiguration: maybe the only bit of scripture with which he's familiar, for all I know," the Archdeacon began, inspiring shocked giggles from the congregation. "It is the right mystery to start this ministry with," he said, before confessing: "I've not read the book. *The Transfiguration of Jesus*, published in 1993, £6.95, Darton Longman Todd," offering Fr Marshall a free advertisement. "But the Transfiguration speaks of a place of vision, a place where you can see things in their true light."

He said that many had questioned the future of the parish, but he had no doubts. "Here you have a faithful priest, whose feet are on the ground, who is concerned above all with communication." But he warned: "Be careful of communications people. You never quite know what is going to happen."

St Augustine's Church, 177 Queen's Gate, Kensington, London SW7. Tel: 0171 881 1877

## In recognition of a dying art



Gary Wood lines a coffin, a skill needed for his NVQ.

FOUR YEARS ago, at the age of 43, Gary Wood was made redundant as a coalminer, a job he had held for 17 years. A local vicar pointed him in the direction of the funeral services. "For all my working life I had been involved in the caring side of things," he says. "I had worked for the Mines Rescue Service, and I had also worked part-time for the local fire service."

Mr Wood joined the Co-Operative Funeral Services in Rugeley, Staffordshire, on a casual basis, and after six months was given a full-time job. His tasks include removing the deceased, receiving bodies into the mortuary, preparing and dressing them and, as conductor, leading the cortege.

AT PRESENT, Mr Wood is just under half way through his NVQ in the Funeral Service. Financed by his employer, the course consolidates all his skills, and teaches him what he calls the "Hard Core", which covers aspects such as the role of the coroner.

Like many, Mr Wood is taking an NVQ so that the work he does has a national recognition. "It means that the skills are standardised," he says. "There are a lot of differences in practice throughout the industry, and this helps to iron them out."

Having an NVQ will also mean that Mr Wood has more job mobility, and he says that it helps his self-esteem. "I find it immensely helpful," he says. "After all, anything that improves the job has got to be good news."

GUY WALTERS

ALFRED DUNHILL



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Sooner or later I suppose I shall have to subject myself to a full and frank interview about the breakup of my relationship. "Was it ever true love, or a marriage of convenience? Did I go into it with virginal innocence and high expectations?" They are sure to ask whether I have been faithful all these years, whether it is true that I was so desperate at times, so unsupported, that I hurt my arms and legs with pig-buckets. They will ask whether I was provoked into the final break-up by my wife's revelation to Mrs Jonathan Dimbleby (when her husband bought a farm on the proceeds of some other interview) that I smelt of dung. There have been three of us in this marriage for some time now — me, her, and the farm — and yes, it was a bit crowded.

Wives are easy, but let no one try and tell you that being married to a farm is a doddle. She has been a hard mistress: moody, unpredictable, ever ready to trip you up if you try to lead a normal life. You cannot be a farmer for long before you get the uneasy suspicion that you have enemies. Fat, sleek, enemies, with limited intelligence

## My impossibly crowded marriage



Redpollgate tape, which said: "Did you know your cows have been in our swimming pool?" That led to more nuisance calls while I rounded up an army to extract them. In fact, they'd only got as far as the grass round the swimming pool and had not quite changed into bovine bikini and taken the plunge. Ever since that incident I

**FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY**

and decided I couldn't stomach any more of it. The tenuous link between a ewe and her life is one of the most slender threads I have come across, and it snaps when you least expect it. I have had ewes work to the point of exhaustion to deliver their lambs, then get up and walk across to the trough as if nothing had happened. Some other

eyes will merely be walking across the meadow, when they think to themselves, "Ah well, I think we'll die here," and down they drop, stone dead. It is enough to put anyone off their dinner.

"Have I tried to injure myself?" No need: everything on the farm managed to do that for me. Our white cow, Sage, is quite good at handing out the punishment. She enjoys that silken little patch on the top of her head, between her ears, being gently rubbed. As you stroke, she bends her head and licks your boots. It makes you feel, well, royal. She has a look of James Hewitt in her eyes: adoring. Then she whips her head in the air when you are least expecting it and gives you a painful clout under the chin. Cows. They build you up just to knock you down.

Which brings us to infidelity. "Have I been unfaithful?" The honest answer is yes, yes, a thousand times yes. All farmers are. To prove it, watch a farmer driving down a country lane. His

eyes will be anywhere but on the road ahead. Instead they are darting from side to side, coveting their neighbour's crops, looking at the other man's grass (which truthfully is always greener), worshipping someone else's farm buildings. Do not think farmers drive Range Rovers for status reasons: it is simply that they are one of the highest cars you can get, which makes it that much easier to peer over hedges.

I do the same. I have gazed longingly at other men's fields, soil, muck-heaps, landscapes. I have wanted to take any number of farms in my arms, hold them close and tell them I love them. I remember two things in particular: one was in the Yorkshire Dales with the snow falling and the other on the edge of a Cornish cliff with a wild Atlantic Ocean breaking at its feet. To answer your next question, Mr Bashir, yes, I adored them. But I knew they would let me down. I may be as thick as a plank, but not that thick. I am strong now. I can do without a farm. I am considering my future role, possibly as an Ambassador. Governor-General of Bermuda would be nice.

## Mead makers develop a taste for tradition

One of the ancient industries of Wales has been quietly infiltrated by the English

Rather like actor Hugh Grant in the recent cinematic slice of Welsh whimsy, a handsome Englishman called Tony Cornish went up a hill in the Principality and came down with something of a commercial mountain.

It all began when 32-year-old Mr Cornish, a former magazine editor, and his wife Judith decided they would prefer to bring up their children in the country, exchanging the crowded South East of England for the outskirts of Llangollen, which they had encountered on a canal holiday in North Wales.

The couple bought Ty Brethyn, a former tweed mill, but faced the problem of what to do with the five acres of hilly land that came with the house. Their first thought was an orchard. "I'd always wanted to grow old-fashioned apples," Mr Cornish says. He answered an advertisement in *Country Living*, offering saplings. The proprietor asked him to describe his site and immediately told him he should be growing vines.

Brushing aside protestations about the latitude of Llangollen, she persuaded Mr Cornish to invest in 1,500 plants for a three-acre slope beside the house. The vines are thriving, but the new landowner quickly discovered that the cost of installing distillation equipment for no more than 1,000 bottles of wine a year was prohibitive. "You can't lay out that capital and use it once a year."

An alternative project had to be found. As a keen amateur historian, Cornish had been struck by the number of references to mead he encountered locally. His starting point was the dictionary, which defined mead simply as "fermented honey". For a year he researched the subject. Old books confirmed that the alcohol in genuine Welsh mead had been a product of fermentation and was not added.

A cursory survey of contemporary meads revealed that they were fortified with brandy. "That can't be right," says Mr Cornish. "If our forefathers had brandy, why would they have needed mead?" It is

the modern concoctions that are responsible for mead's reputation as a sweet, even sickly, drink.

Mead making, which can take place all year, would complement their viniculture perfectly. Next, Mr Cornish began to collate ancient recipes found in home-brew publications. Those involving exotic ingredients, such as gorse-flower, were rejected in favour of more accessible flavours.

A professional wine expert in Devon advised them on the commercial value of their recipes. Mr Cornish's process involves fermenting a mixture of honey, clear spring water from his own well and fruit juices, all inoculated with wine yeast. Fermentation takes three months in four stainless steel chambers, each of 3,400 litres. The mead is then matured in oak barrels for six months before bottling. Traditionally, mead makers boasted a secret element unique to their brews and Mr Cornish is no exception. His mystery ingredient involves an undivulged mixture of herbs and spices.

"Fermentation behaves differently with large quantities," he explains. "You have to experiment." In the first six months they produced 12,000 bottles. "We thought they would last 18 months, but they sold out in six." He produced six flavours. The most popular are apple and blackcurrant.

In the second year, production rose to 15,000 bottles, half of which were sold through a



Tony Cornish with a bottle of his mead. The traditional packaging has helped sales to tourists who want to take home a reminder of Wales

small shop in Llangollen town centre. This year the target is 60,000 and could be increased to 100,000 without changing the nature of the enterprise. "Our aim is to create a small-scale, quality business that retains its own products."

Tony and Judith Cornish are Christians, a commitment they believe is central to the conduct of their enterprise. "We believe strongly that it is possible for a commercial business to turn in a profit without stamping on people's necks," Mr Cornish says. "We would like to employ more

people under good conditions and at a fair rate."

The Cornishes take stands at various agricultural shows and find medieval banquets and historic re-enactments of battles ideal showcases for their wares. Mead is the earliest alcoholic drink in this country, Mr Cornish claims. It is mentioned in the writings of Chaucer. In the laws of Hywel Dda (Hywel the Good, a 10th-century Welsh ruler) and even in the letters of Jane Austen. The Welsh utilised the best honey for mead, while the English ate theirs and fermented the washings of the honeycombs for drink.

Eventually, Mr Cornish would like to provide his own raw materials and is making a start by reducing his reliance on honey imported from across Offa's Dyke. Next year he wants to establish half a dozen beehives at the mill.

He is also planning to add rosehip and elder to his range of flavours. In preparation, he has planted 300 rosa rugosa bushes and is hoping to propagate seeds from an ancient elder tree that grows on his land and is known to the

family as the Elder Statesman.

While some rival companies offer their mead in screwtop bottles, he has introduced pottery containers for authenticity. The Englishman would dearly like to see mead re-established as the Welsh national drink. He would be happy to see others set up meaderies in Wales. "As long as they were not shipping the mead in from England and re-labelling it and as long as they were fermenting it and making it properly," he says. "If Scotland can build a tourist industry on whisky, why

should not Wales do the same with mead?"

And last week, when the Cornishes sold their meadery to Graham Jackson, also English, they ensured they would be able to maintain their Welsh ambition. The Cornishes will continue to manage the company and plan to expand.

**ALAN ROAD**

● Ty Brethyn Meadery, Llangollen, Cwmd, North Wales, LL20 7BS. (tel: 01978 960437).  
● The mead costs £5.50 for a 75cl bottle.

A NEW HEAL'S STORE OPENS ON DECEMBER 1ST

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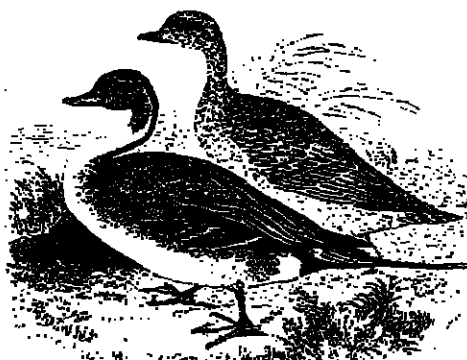
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## Sensitive guest surfaces

OUT IN the middle of the lake, all the waterfowl were black and white. Tufted ducks were leaping forward and disappearing beneath the surface, coots were chugging solemnly along, and a juvenile great crested grebe glided past like a snake that had been twisted into the form of a bird.

But by the bank on the far side there was colour. Some shovellers were pushing their spatula-like beaks through the water, and the bottle-green heads and red flanks of the drakes glowed in the low sun. Then my field glasses caught sight of another duck. This one had a chestnut-coloured head, with a thin white line down the back of it that might have been painted with a fine brush. The line joined up with the bird's white breast; it had a dappled grey body, and a cream-coloured patch in front of its exquisite, long tail.

I had found a drake pintail — a visitor from its summer breeding ground in northern Europe or western Siberia. Pintails are arriving in large numbers just now, and are mostly gathering along the East coast, or on the estuaries of the Mersey and the Don,



The pintail duck is an East coast visitor

### Feather Report

But throughout the winter, odd individuals like mine will turn up at shallow lakes and gravel pits inland.

I swam a little way out from the bank, then "up-ended". When it was swimming, its pointed tail was slightly cocked, but now that it was dabbling with its head under water, its tail had fallen into line with its body, and stood up vertically. It was facing away from me, and I could see the distinctive black under the tail.

Some of these roaming drakes have a mate with them, but this one seemed to be alone. The female is not so easy to recognise — she does not have a noticeably long tail

and is like a slender, grey female mallard.

Pintails have a very sensitive tip to their beak, and can detect underwater worms and small aquatic snails when they "up-end", but they do not dive like the tufted ducks. I watched my bird tip up and down several times.

Then something evidently disturbed it. It swam along with its tail lowered, like an uneasy dog. The shovellers went on shovelling, not far away — clearly they were thicker-skinned than the pintail.

Suddenly it was up in the air. It flew rapidly towards me, then swerved off. I could see its slim, streamlined shape in the sky, and I could even hear its wings hissing. It was soon out of sight — a winter wanderer that had gone in search of tranquillity.

**DERWENT MAY**

● What's about: *Birders* — Watch out in gardens for over-wintering black caps. *Twitchees* — red-breasted goose at Sea Palling, Norfolk; lesser yellowlegs at Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire; Details from Birdline, (090) 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute, cheap rate, 50p a minute at all other times.

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## GARDENING

5

Skeletal outlines provide a focal point and months of dramatic effect in the dormant garden

## Tree barks to colour the bite of winter

Visiting a friend's house, I was taken to see the garden. Beyond the drive was a simple lawn merging into a rough-mown meadow and then a field, which had a group of five trees — two live maples and three alders, which had, puzzlingly, given up the ghost this summer.

I suggested replacements which would give more than a skeletal outline during winter: a tree with striking bark that would catch the eye and make a focal point through the months of dormancy.

In this case, on the garden's boundary, the best candidates would be birches; ornamental trees as happy in a garden as in natural woodland.

*Betula pendula*, our native common silver birch, is ideal for the mottled, grey-white hue of its bark, but even more striking is the brilliant white of *B. utilis* var. *jacquemontii*, which originates in the Himalayas. A lone standard, or group of three of this species in a prominent position towards a garden's boundary will have dramatic winter effect.

The other family of trees most widely grown for decorative barks are the acers, in particular the 'Snakebark' maples, which have distinctively striated white or pale-green and dark-green bark. These should be planted in a garden where they can be admired at close quarters and the subtlety of their markings fully appreciated, rather than as a distant feature for which a birch is ideal. (In general, most acers will not thrive on chalky soil, and you should avoid exposing



*Prunus serrula*, left, and *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*

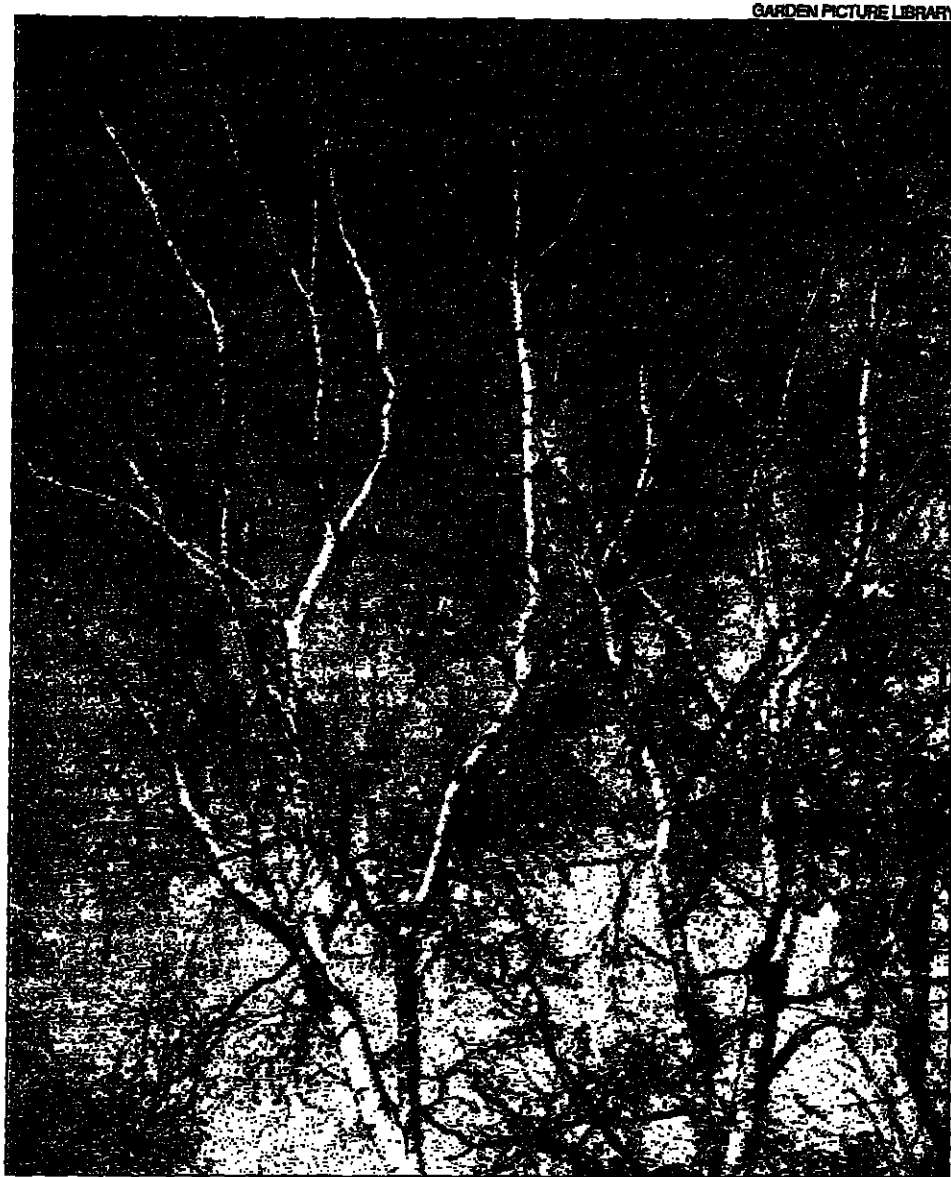


ing them to chilly winds.) Two of the best — both of which are suitable for most gardens as they only ever grow to be small trees — are *Acer grosseri* var. *hersii*, whose bark has a spectacular marbled effect, and the better known *A. pennsylvanicum*, with white and delicately pale-green stripes.

Many people enthuse about *A. griseum*, the 'Paperbark' maple, for its delicate pale-green summer foliage and rich cinnamon-coloured bark in winter. But it is a slow grower, so, for strong brown bark, I would go for the cherry *Prunus serrula*, which is also a small tree but grows more vigorously. The bark is unforgettable, burnished, glowing mahogany that makes you want to reach out and stroke the polished surface, and peel away a strip of old bark to reveal the brighter new layer. There are other cherries with decorative barks, but

*P. serrula* is the best and most easily available, so you need look no further. The warmth of this tree's bark is an antidote to the winter garden. This is also the case with the other main suppliers of long-term winter colour: trees and shrubs with brightly coloured young stems which should be encouraged by hard pruning in March, either annually or every other year. These are especially effective planted along the edge of water, banks of colour vividly reflected.

Easiest to grow are shrubby dogwoods and willows, in particular *Cornus alba* and its variety 'Sibirica' and the 'Scarlet Willow' *Salix alba*



The mottled branches of the silver birch *Betula pendula*, provide a fine focal point

'Britennis'. The young shoots of the cornus are wine-red in colour, while those of the willow are more orange-red. Contrasting shades can be added to a group of plants by

two other willows, *Salix alba* var. *vitellina* and *S. daphnoides*, whose new stems are respectively bright yellow and deep purple. These dogwoods and willows are quick growers. Planted now they are best left uncut for their first year and then trimmed back in the following spring, to encourage the vigorous new shoots.

Your garden in winter should be a place of highlights, occasional fortes of warm colour and strong form to break the monotony of brown and green. Flowering plants come and go, often

short-lived or ruined by fierce weather, but brightly coloured bark can provide dramatic effect for months.

Just as important, such trees are suitable to the prevailing conditions: the bark hues of birch or prunus benefiting from low-slanting winter sunlight and coloured stems take on a new dimension when coated with frosty crystals.

Depending on space, these trees can be grouped together, but they are just as effective planted singly.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

## GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

**Q** On our boundary to the road we have an old holly hedge which has diseased leaves and gaps in it. I have attempted to cut out dead and spindly growth. What would you suggest to improve it? — Mrs M. Lambert, Sutton Coldfield.

**A** The leaves you sent show symptoms of holly leaf miner, an insect which lays its eggs in the leaf in May and June. On important clipped specimen hollies it might be worth treating the problem by spraying with HCH during the egg-laying period. But in a hedge which is struggling anyway, your energies would be better spent simply reinvigorating the hedge. It is better to cut old hollies right down to within a couple of inches of the soil, and then they will throw up a forest of strong, new shoots, making 2ft or more a year. So I would give your hedge a heavy dressing of old manure this winter, and cut it right down in February.

**Q** I used to burn the trimmings from my 150ft Lawson cypress hedge, but now I have acquired a shredder. Could incorporating too much of this shredded material into the soil upset its balance? — F.L. Cockfield, Tiverton, Devon.

**A** I would not recommend digging the material directly into the soil, but it would make a good mulch if not applied too thickly. I would not mulch every year on the same

border. If the old mulch is intact, then use the next year's batch somewhere else. Continuous mulching with resinous plants can lead to soil acidity, so unless you are growing plants which require acid conditions, it is helpful to lime the soil lightly every few years.

**Q** This year I grew some eucalyptus trees from seed, and they are now 14 in tall in pots outside. What should I do with them for the winter? I have an unheated, north-facing greenhouse lined with bubble film, and a cold frame which gets sun for half the day. — Mrs Virginia Jackson, Hastings.

**A** If these are seedlings of a hardy eucalyptus, and you intend to plant one of them, I would do so now. In your seaside climate it stands an excellent chance of coming through the winter quite unscathed. You could always give some protection to its young stem if the weather turned bitter. The others had better come under glass. I favour the cold frame over the greenhouse. The tops of the hardy eucalyptus will take some frost, even in their first year, but it is a bad idea to let the roots freeze.

**Q** Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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NEW ON CD: Van Morrison in the world of jazz; heraldic colour in Janequin's Mass; oh-so-cool Mel Tormé; plus videos

## ROCK SINGLE

David Sinclair

## PEARL JAM

**Merkinball**  
Epic 662 716 ★★

THE tide is a bit of an in-joke, a merkin being a pubic wig (seriously) and the two songs (neither of them called Merkinball) having been recorded during the sessions for Neil Young's *Mirrorball*. On that album, Pearl Jam acted as Young's backing band, and here Young returns the compliment, lending support first on guitar and then on a wheezing pump organ.

*I Got ID* is a big, dark, windswept monster of a song, with Young's clanging guitar shoring up a typically overwrought performance by Eddie Vedder, his voice running the emotional gamut from despairing moan to tortured shriek. There is flamboyant talk of walking the line and paying the price, although it is difficult to work out what for.

*Long Road* is a more reflective piece with spaced-out chords underpinned by a gentle but persistent tom-tom tattoo. "And the wind keeps roaring and the sky keeps turning grey," Vedder sings, still sounding inconsolably downcast, but in a more thoughtful way. It is dramatic, desolate stuff and should provide a welcome antidote to the imminent surfeit of Christmas cheer.

## JAZZ 1

David Sinclair

**VAN MORRISON, WITH GEORGIE FAME AND FRIENDS**  
*How Long Has This Been Going On*  
Exile/Verve 529 136 ★★

ROUNDING off a year in which he has had "more awards than hot dinners" (as he rather tactlessly put it when being offered both at Q magazine's prizegiving bash last month) Van Morrison has recorded a jazz album.

Knocked out during a single day at Ronnie Scott's last May, and sprung on the market without a word of warning, *How Long Has This Been Going On* is a collection of standards from some of the trustiest pens in the history of the business: Ira and George

## VIDEO

## BULLETS OVER BROADWAY

Buena Vista, 15, 1994

WOODY Allen's most relaxed film for years: an opulent comedy set in New York's theatre world during the 1920s. Allen stays off-camera, but his mouthpiece is clearly John Cusack, cast as playwright with more aspirations than talent, struggling with the compromises necessary to bring his play to Broadway. Clustered around him is a droll collection of period types: menacing thugs, empty-headed molls, flowery actors. Excellent support by Chazz Palminteri, Dianne Wiest and Jim Broadbent. Available to rent.

## CHRONICLE OF LOVE

Arrow, 15, 1990

THERE is a dynamism and warmth to Antonioni's first feature which is missing in his better-known films of the 1960s. Later characters seem more symbols than human beings; but here Antonioni observes the frailties of his central characters — an adulterous wife, her lover and the husband they plot to murder. The film features Lucia Bosé, Massimo Girotti, Gino Rossi, and a wonderfully plangent soundtrack score. The only drawback is the video copy's old-fashioned subtitles, the kind that vanish whenever a white tablecloth appears.

## FOX AND HIS FRIENDS

Connoisseur, 15, 1975

SOME friends: they pounce on the small fortune that Fox won in a lottery, and whittle it away. The milieu for Rainer Werner Fassbinder's film is homosexual, but his real interests lie in class conflict and the cruel games people play. As lead actor, Fassbinder makes the working-class Fox a blend of the clumsy and cocky; as director, he creates a social kaleidoscope of lavish apartments, sleazy nightclubs and deserted train stations.

## THE GREAT WAR

DD Video, E, 1995

THE ideal Christmas present for First World War buffs: six 90-

Dianne Wiest and John Cusack. Woody Allen's mouthpiece in the opulent comedy *Bullets Over Broadway*, set in New York in the 1920s

minute tapes prepared from CBS television programmes. The world's archives were ransacked for footage of the 1917 Russian Revolution, the battles of Jutland, the Marne and the Somme, the Versailles peace conference, and all points in between. A monotonous new commentary and low-grade music may deter continuous viewing, but images of a world in chaos compel attention.

## IMAGINE: JOHN LENNON

Warner Home Video, 15, 1988

FROM troubled Liverpool lad to long-haired peace activist: John Lennon's life makes for a lively film, drawn from material in Yoko Ono's archive. Despite her involvement, enough sharp edges remain. Home movies and news footage blend with special interviews, though the three remaining Beatles escaped the film-

makers' net. Directed by Andrew Solt for the documentary specialist David L. Wolper.

## JEFFERSON IN PARIS

Buena Vista, 12, 1995

AUTHENTIC locations, sumptuous costumes and props set the scene for Thomas Jefferson's five years as ambassador to France in the 1780s. Nick Nolte looks the part splendid-

ly, though given James Ivory's distance with emotions you have to guess at the tumults within that prompt America's future president to flirt with a married woman (Greta Scacchi), cling obsessively to his eldest daughter, and father children with one of his slaves (Thandie Newton). Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

## ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

## BEETHOVEN

Triple Concerto/

Choral Fantasy

Perlman/Ma/Barenboim/

Berlin PO/Barenboim

EMI 5 55516 2 ★★

NEITHER the Triple Concerto nor the Choral Fantasy has ever won a devoted following.

In the case of the former, that neglect is surely unjustified, and this splendid new recording should go a long way to raising its profile.

In the hands of Daniel Barenboim (who conducts as well as taking the solo piano part), the opening tutti has all the tension of an incipient drama. Yo-Yo Ma has the responsibility of leading off the solos in each movement, a task he discharges with the utmost sensitivity.

□ SCHUMANN/

STRAUSS

Piano Concerto/Barleske

Grünewald/Deutsches SO

Berlin/Zürcher

Erato 0630-1172-2 ★★

WITH her prodigious talent and filmstar looks, the French pianist Hélène Grimaud seemed destined for a glittering career after her award-winning Rachmaninov disc

made at the age of 15. That was 11 years ago, and if she is still not a household name, Grimaud's artist biography looks increasingly impressive.

She has now been signed up exclusively by Erato, which has teamed her with the American conductor David Zinman for this disc. The Schumann is done with great charm, the melodies lyrically phrased, the accompaniments sketched in. The Intermezzo, too, marked "Andantino grazioso", is certainly that. But is there anything below this amicable surface?

The three sopranos, three male altos and nine male voices correspond to the six choristers and ten or so singing men of Arundel Castle, where these works were originally sung and are now re-

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## EARLY MUSIC

Hilary Finch

## ROBERT FAYREAX

Missa Tecum principium, etc

The Cardinal's Music

ASV CD GAU 145 ★★

DOMINATED by the Tudor composer's Christmas Mass, *Tecum principium* (The Beginning Was With You), this volume is just the thing for Advent. St Nicholas or Santa's sack.

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made at the age of 15. That was 11 years ago, and if she is still not a household name, Grimaud's artist biography looks increasingly impressive.

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Tormé: retaining appetite for baroque paraphrase

## JAZZ 2

Clive Davis

## MEL TORMÉ

Velvet &amp; Brass

Concord CCD-4667 ★★

WHENEVER Mel Tormé is reunited with a big band, one always hopes for a repeat of his early Verve masterpiece, *Swings Shubert Alley*. Velvet & Brass does not fall far short.

At 70, Tormé has, understandably enough, lost a certain amount of range and precision: not to worry, he retains his old appetite for baroque paraphrase.

His oh-so-cool rendition of *I Got A Kick Out Of You*, gliding over opening bars of flutes, Latin percussion and muted horns before indulging in a casual bout of scat singing, could not be confused with that of any other vocalist.*Swings Shubert Alley* had the benefit of wonderfully taut arrangements from the pen of Marty Paich, using minimal resources. Rob McConnell's charts for his powerhouse band, The Boss Brass, might at first hearing seem too overbearing for a voice that was nicknamed "the velvet fog".

If they are less rhythmically distinctive, McConnell's settings still deploy some exceptionally subtle combinations of orchestral tones, especially in the interplay of saxophones and French horns.

□ ROB KORAL/

SUE HAWKER

Was It Something You Said?

Mastermix CHECD00112 ★★

THE guitar-and-vocal duets of those eternal love birds, Tuck and Patti Cathcart, provide the obvious point of comparison for the collaboration of Rob Koral and Sue Hawker, better known as core members of the British band, Sketch.

Hawker, a fine singer, cannot compete with Patti Cathcart's diva-like voice (who could?), yet the arrangements, which occasionally feature the bassist Tony Botelho, are a good deal more rigorous and, more to the point, completely free of saccharine. Koral's lithe but understated accompaniment sheds new light on *Yesterdays* and *I Could Write A Book*.His oh-so-cool rendition of *I Got A Kick Out Of You*, gliding over opening bars of flutes, Latin percussion and muted horns before indulging in a casual bout of scat singing, could not be confused with that of any other vocalist.*Swings Shubert Alley* had the benefit of wonderfully taut arrangements from the pen of Marty Paich, using minimal resources. Rob McConnell's charts for his powerhouse band, The Boss Brass, might at first hearing seem too overbearing for a voice that was nicknamed "the velvet fog".

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## PROPERTY

9

A trip around the world to discover just what you can buy for £400,000



Cape Town: in suburban Claremont, £400,000 would secure an opulent detached house, with four or five bedrooms, servants' quarters, tennis court and swimming pool

## Location really is everything

In London, £400,000 would buy a four-bedroom terrace house in Wandsworth SW18, or a two-bedroom flat in Mayfair, W1. It would also pay for a six-bedroom Georgian house in the centre of Edinburgh or a Regency villa with enough land to graze a few horses on the outskirts of Dublin.

Trading city locations with £400,000 to spend becomes even more diverting if you take your pick of properties worldwide.

In Cape Town, you could buy an opulent detached house, with four or five bedrooms, servants' quarters, tennis court and swimming pool, in suburban Claremont or Bishopscourt, 15 minutes' drive from the city centre. Most homes in this price range have security systems, designer kitchens and garag-

ing for at least four cars.

The same sort of money would buy a virtual mansion in Johannesburg, with at least seven bedrooms and extensive gardens, in a prime residential district close to the centre. Security may be a problem though, which explains why many owners of large houses are selling up and moving into newly built cluster villas, with armed 24-hour security.

In Singapore's prestigious 9th district, around Orchard Road and River Valley, you would be hard put to afford a bedsit. About £400,000 would produce a 99-year lease on a one-bedroom tower block flat in a less salubrious part of the city, such as International Plaza or People's Park.

You get more for your money in Sydney, with options of a three to four-bedroom detached house in Lower

North Shore or Eastern Suburbs, about ten minutes' drive from the centre; or a two-bedroom apartment on the waterfront.

Tokyo has seen some dramatic price reductions in recent years — however, £400,000 would produce little more than a broom-cupboard in Hiro-o, Tokyo's equivalent of Knightsbridge. You would be able to afford a 45sq m one-bedroom condominium in Harajuku or Azabu, in the central business district. Or, you might manage a three-bedroom condo on the outskirts.

Property in Hong Kong is expensive. It would be hard to find anything for £400,000 in prime locations such as the Peak, the central business district or Mid-Levels, but you

would be able to get a 50-year lease on a three-bedroom apartment in Tai Koo Shing, on the less popular east side of Hong Kong Island.

In New York's Manhattan, exchange £400,000 for a stylish two-bedroom flat on the 26th floor of a skyscraper overlooking Central Park and the Dakota Building of John Lennon fame. In San Francisco, your budget would extend to a three-storey, three-bedroom painted timber and wood detached house in Pacific Heights, with a two-car garage.

Property prices are rising fast in Bombay, but £400,000 would still provide for a top-



Milan: buy a three-bedroom flat in a turn-of-the-century building such as this

notch two to three-bedroom flat in a modern block in the south of the city, overlooking the Arabian Sea. Or, a three to four-bedroom flat in Bandra, Bombay's equivalent of Beverly Hills. There is one snag: having invested your money in India, you cannot take it out again on resale.

In European capitals, there is a wide range of property available for £400,000. In Brussels, one of the cheaper cities, it would buy a 200sq m penthouse in a prime area, such as Uccle or Ixelles, or a detached four-bedroom house in Waterloo, a green-belt area south of the city.

In the centre of Munich, £400,000 would barely cover a

two-bedroom flat in a concrete, purpose-built block. The same sort of money would buy four period buildings in what was East Berlin, but obtaining clear title to the property could be difficult.

Prices have fallen in central Paris, where an apartment in an 18th-century building, with three bedrooms and two reception rooms, in the fashionable 8th arrondissement, just off the Champs-Élysées, can be yours for £400,000. A similar sum would acquire a turreted 19th-century chateau in ten acres of parkland, an hour's drive north of the city.

The property market in Madrid is starting to pick up. But for £400,000 you can still buy a 180sq m balcony flat with up to

four bedrooms, overlooking communal gardens and a swimming pool, in the prestigious Salamanca district.

In Milan, where the property market is still in the doldrums, you would be able to afford a three-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment in an elegant, turn-of-the-century building in the best part of the city. Outside the centre, the same amount would buy a 200sq m apartment in Fiera, with a designer kitchen and marble floors.

You get more for your money in Stockholm. A four-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment in a modern building in Ostermalm, in the heart of the city, is within your price



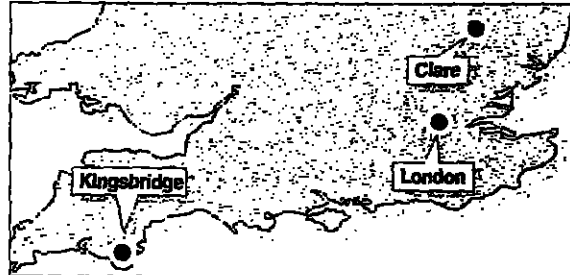
In Sydney, £400,000 would buy a four-bedroom house close to the city centre

## FOR SALE

## AROUND £290,000



**DEVON**  
Horn House, Loddreswell, Nr Kingsbridge. Restored late Georgian farmhouse in eight acres of paddocks and woodland, with 55ft frontage to the river Avon and fishing rights. Four bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, attic room, three reception rooms, study, kitchen and cloakroom. Garage, storehouse and traditional barn. About £285,000 (Marchand Petit, 01548 857588)



**SUFFOLK**  
Wentford Farmhouse, Postlingford, Clare. Period farmhouse in two acres of mature formal gardens and paddocks. In a rural location. Seven bedrooms, nursery, two bathrooms, four reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom. Double garage. About £285,000. (GA Town and County, 01787 277107)



**LONDON**  
The Upper Maisonette, 90 Colney Street SW3. Maisonette (in need of restoration) on first, second and third floors of a 19th-century terrace house, just off the King's Road. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen/breakfast room and reception room. About £295,000 for an 87-year lease. (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1494)

CHERYL TAYLOR

CHERYL TAYLOR

Information: Knight, Frank & Rutley (0171-628 8171); Hamptons (Cape Town: 0171-493 8222); Sifer (Paris: 0171-384 1200); Villas Abroad (Prague, Paris: 0181-891 5444).

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A NEW HEAL'S STORE OPENS ON DECEMBER 1ST

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## SHOPPING

15

The inspirationally-challenged have a wide choice of toys for the boys this year: socks are simply not acceptable

## Hot-wiring the gift route to Christmas

For adults, Christmas toys generally mean gadgets, so I asked gnomes what they would really like Santa to deliver this year.

Several music lovers dreamed of Bang & Olufson's Beo-Sound system. As well as its cool contemporary design and the state-of-the-art technology, you can listen to, and control, music in every room from one remote-control source. Not cheap, but you will need only one stereo, and you can start small and add over the years. For instance, get a Beo-Sound Overture (£150) combined CD player, tape recorder and radio, add three BeoLab 2,000 double speakers (£535 each) plus installation costs (from about £300 per room) for music in sitting room, kitchen and bedroom, all for under £3,000. Television and video can be added too.

On a less exalted level, I tested the new Philips Portable Micro System CD player (£159.99), trying everything from Purcell to Sinatra, at volumes between whisper and party-party, and was delighted. With detachable speakers, 40 watts output power, programmable CD, FM/LW tuner, a single cassette deck and remote control. Perfect for the kitchen or study, as well as a moveable music feast. If I don't get one for Christmas, heads will roll.

Drivers will be beguiled by the impressive Philips Routefinder (£199.99), which will produce the best route from A to B and estimate journey length, petrol consumption and cost. Its 38,000 destinations are stored on an AA data card, and accurately told us the best route from Fulham Broadway in central London to the Gloucestershire village of Minchinhampton, and thence to Clifton in Bristol. Directions are clear and detailed, and you can choose from several route options including one avoiding motorways. The Routefinder is hand-held — great for the navigator but not for the driver — dashboard mounts will soon be available.

We also tested the newly-

released Trafficmate (£49.99), a battery-operated voice system which sits on the dashboard, collects information from 2,400 sensors on motorway bridges around the country and relays it back. Spoken messages are delivered on traffic flow and warnings are given about delays to within ten miles or two motorway junctions of your position, whichever is the greater. You

can silence it and a flashing red light will alert you to an important message. Its predictions proved accurate on a nightmare journey on the M4 and M5. At less than £50, it's also an irresistible gizmo.

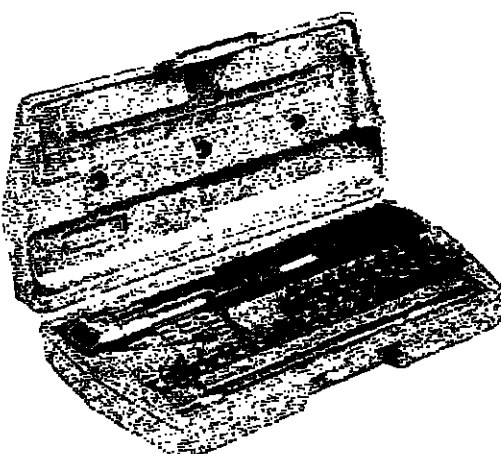
An unqualified success was the Times Data Link Watch (£120), requested by a control freak computer-whizz. It transfers information from a PC running Microsoft (R) Windows (TM) to your wrist — appointments, telephone numbers, dates, lists — up to 70 entries in a few seconds. Other organisers will be binned by Boxing Day.

A couple of stocking filler gadgets were on the list as well — a good mini portable reading light and a fool-proof screwdriver. We turned to the Science Museum Catalogue and tested the Flexlight (£5.95), which is just four-and-three-quarter inches long, and can be used as a simple torch, or, with the flexible neck standing up from its body, as a clip-on reading light or a tiny desk-top angle-poise. Small enough for a handbag or suit pocket, it is excellent value.

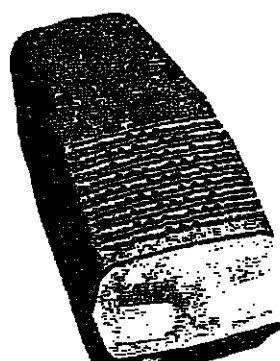
Another good stocking filler is the ratchet-action screwdriver (£14.95) from the same catalogue, with a 20-piece screwdriver/Allen key set and a seven-piece socket set. The screwdriver bits fit in to the handle at right angles, making it easier to use than a conventional straight screwdriver, so even the most inept will improve their DIY.

The ultimate gadget is the Apple Newton 120 Message Pad (£424 plus VAT, including Newton Back-Utility and cables for Macintosh and Windows PCs) launched on November 8. It records handwritten notes either in script or transferred to print and can be connected to a Windows or Macintosh computer; it has an optional keyboard and can communicate by fax, messaging or beaming; or surf the net with its built-in eWorld software; a portable office. I'm sure even Father Christmas could use one.

STEPHANIE LEWIS



For those DIY jobs, a ratchet-action screwdriver set, £14.95 from the Science Museum Catalogue

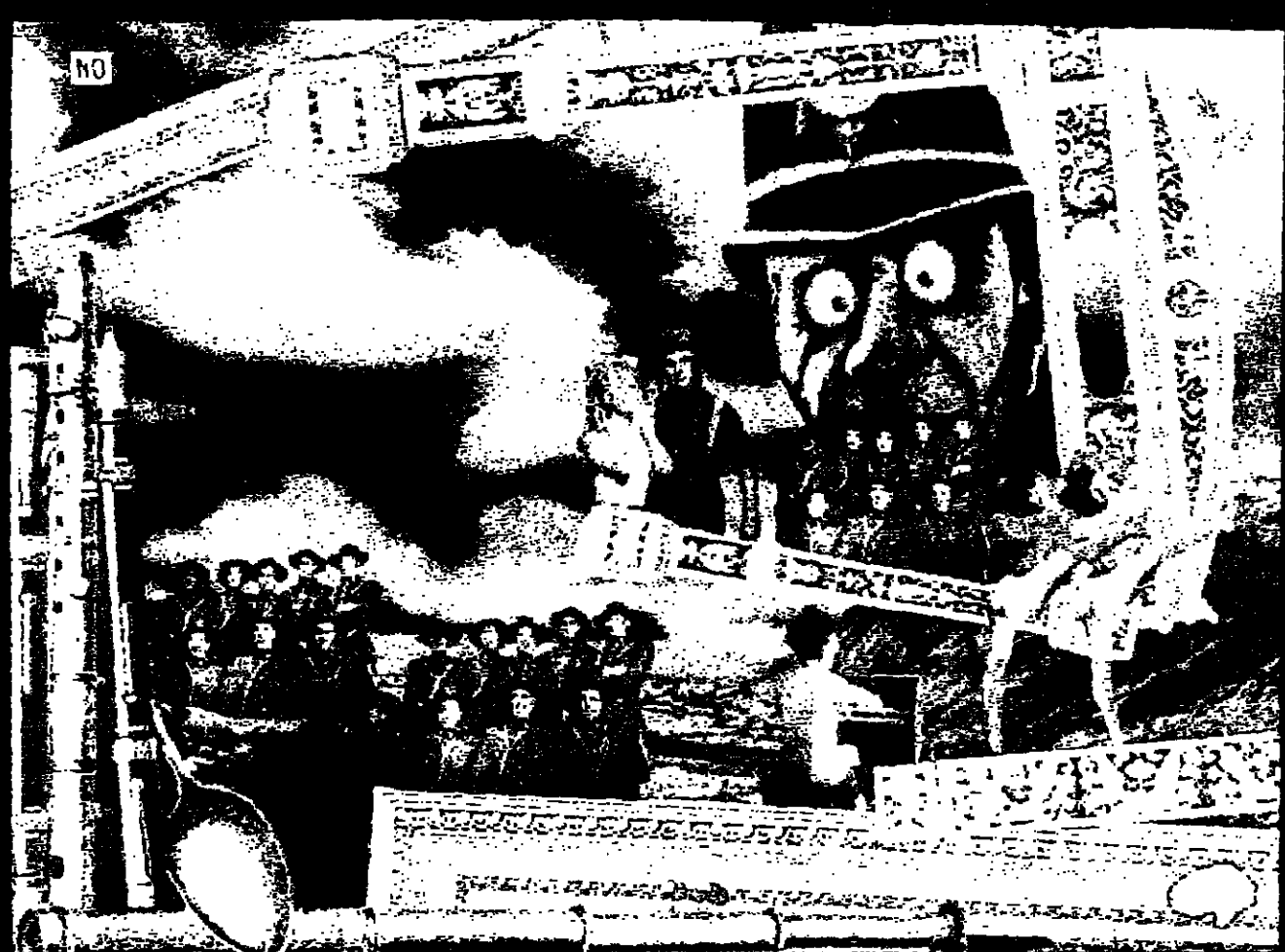


Steer clear of motorway jams with the Trafficmate, £49

### Where to buy

Apple Newton: Newton Customer Hotline 0181-730 2048.  
Bang & Olufson: freephone 0321 300 313 for stockists.  
Philips: Portable Micro System, 0181 665 6350 for stockists.  
Routefinder: dial 100 and ask for Freephone Routefinder.  
Science Museum Catalogue: 01753 480200.  
Times (UK) Time: 0171-630 8180 for stockists.  
Trafficmate: 01582 745555 (sales); 01908 249808 (Trafficmate information).

"Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time" from 7th Level, Inc.



World's first Interactive "CD-ROM Tringle!"

Force computer buffs to lighten up with Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time (7th Level Mac & Win PC CD-Rom: £39.99), a celebration of irrelevance

## Dear Software Santa ...

Have yourself a multimedia Christmas, make the Yuletide games.

Become a little helper of the Software Santa this year with something from our pick of the best.

Buying software for others need not be a nightmare; the secret is getting the right format. Note the make and model of the relevant games console or home computer and check assertively with the retailer that your choice is compatible. Also ensure that your purchases can be exchanged.

When you know someone well then instinct invariably leads you in the right direction. But if you're completely lost, and tempted to return to buying pairs of socks, try one of these.

Top of the list is Brøderbund's mesmerising fun factory, the Kids Pix Studio. Though it's aimed at three to 12-year-olds, it's so intoxicating that anyone will enjoy it. One feature allows you to transform a snap of, say, your auntie, into a work of animating art: with dancing pink elephants at her feet and hovering hummingbirds around her head.

Action games abound but as Christmas is a caring, sharing time, try for something where everyone can join in. Micro Machines 96 is a chaotic overhead racing game and a

classic for entire households. Try not to laugh as your tiny racer runs out of control on the rim of the bathtub.

Stepping up a gear, Destruction Derby is an innovative spin on the genre, with enviable graphics and playability. Here the object isn't so much winning as plain survival as your car starts falling apart around you. In duel mode, two skidding jalopies smash one another to smithereens and you can almost smell the burning rubber.

Actua Soccer raises the standard of football fantasy by adding commentator Barry Davies's clichéd remarks to the action. Play badly, and he complains that your team "has done nothing to endear themselves to the crowd today".

Also owing everything to audio quality, Worms is a delightful two-player game. The notion of worm teams doing violent battle may appear brutal, but soon you'll be full of remorse as your outspoken victims angrily lob back strings of abuse. More serious warmongering doesn't currently come much slicker than in Command & Conquer as two superpowers lock horns for the ultimate conflict.

This year's blockbuster from id Software, whose previous hits include Doom, is Hexen. Keeping to the same formula, it's a first-person perspective runaround which means you are in a complete

virtual world racing around corridors and courtyards. Hexen stretches imagination and terror to the limits.

Something a little more leisurely is a railroad-cum-business sim called 1830 — Railroads and Robber Barons. Run a successful railroad empire while fending off takeover bids from rival players. Play is turn-based, requires tact and has a defined goal: the winner is the player worth most when the game engine runs out of steam.

A Britain is now a National Lottery land of gamblers, any of the related budget lottery titles are worth a flutter. Just Lotto analyses and updates previous results, assists with selecting numbers and, most usefully, tells you when you've won.

For the person who takes their home computing too seriously, force them to lighten up with Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time. Thanks in no small measure to animator Terry Gilliam, this is a celebration of irrelevance. Turn your word processor into a typewriter with great keyboard sounds, including the carriage return bell, and hear messages when you close Windows applications, such as: "Well, we'd better do it again — there's obviously been a bit of a muddle."

Finally, if I were a rich man

I would buy night-clubbing friends a Sony PlayStation just for one tiny programme included on the free demo disk, called V-CD. This allows you to run audio CDs in the PlayStation and play around with vivid graphics generated in time with the music. Though slight it's heavenly, but as there are no plans to release a full version there is no other way to get a copy.

Titles specifically on a Christmas theme must have a remarkably brief shelf life. Of those around, the most enchanting is an interactive children's book written by Brian Wildsmith and read by Martin Jarvis. A Christmas Story covers traditional nativity ground with fine illustrations and a gentle atmosphere.

A must for office wags is Christmas for Windows, which sprinkles a little festive glitter into the PC. Switch your Windows operating system to seasonal colours of red and green and play around with a host of trivial time-wasters.

TIM WAPSHOTT

Computer games, page 23

### Games file

Kids Pix Studio (Broderbund): Mac & Win PC CD-Rom: £29.99. Micro Machines 96 (Codemasters): Sega Mega Drive: £44.99. Destruction Derby (Sony Interactive): PlayStation, CD-Rom: £44.95. Actua Soccer (Gremlin): PC CD-Rom: £44.99 — also PlayStation (imminently). Worms (Team 17/Ocean): PC floppy & CD-Rom. Amiga formats — others due: £29.99-£34.99. Command & Conquer (Virgin/Westwood Studios): PC CD-Rom: £44.99. Hexen (id Software/GT Interactive): PC floppy & CD-Rom: £44.99. 1830 — Railroads and Robber Barons (Avalon Hill/US Gold): PC CD-Rom: £39.99. Just Lotto (COSMI & Company): Win PC floppy: £14.99. Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time (7th Level): Mac & Win PC CD-Rom: £39.99. V-CD (free demo version only with Sony PlayStation: £299). A Christmas Story (Oxford University Press): Win PC CD-Rom: £29.99. Christmas for Windows (US Dreams): PC floppy & CD-Rom: £14.99.

**Creda's Europa lets you toast as you roast.**

If you're getting a built-in kitchen, make sure it has built-in versatility. The Creda Europa has a double oven, including a Solarplus grill that heats up in seconds. So you can keep the starling herbies at bay with toast while the roast's on. And it's only around £650. To find out how to upgrade your kitchen with Britain's best-selling electric cookers, ask for the Creda Answercentre on 0541 546474.

**Something's always cooking at Creda**



Silver collar mouse. £17.50

IF YOU are looking for something special that you won't find in the shops, the following gifts, from up and coming craftsmen, could fit the bill. The items are available by post only. Please order by Wednesday, December 6. All prices include p&p.

1. Choose a sterling silver collar mouse for your cat. (£17.50) by Olivier Simond, holding a lump of gold "cheese" (¾ in high, 11 gm weight). Telephone 0181-693 4727 to order.

2. Give a tile hand-painted by Caroline Rushent. The 6in square poinsettia design shows the festive plant in a basket decorated with a tartan bow, and costs £19.95. It has rubber feet for use as a stand for hot food, and would look great on the Christmas table. Telephone 01753 830638 to order.

3. Kate Hogan's prettily packaged "Lasties" (named for the fun presents traditionally given by her own family) are perfect as stocking fillers. There are three types: one containing a magnetic word game at £8.75; a toy selection chosen according to age (£6.50); and a silver-plated item from £10. Call her to discuss your requirements. Telephone/fax: 0171-731 4373.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

**Rummikub**  
BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER...  
FIND OUT WHY

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR GAMES IN THE WORLD

BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER...  
FIND OUT WHY

**More plot-twists than Poirot**

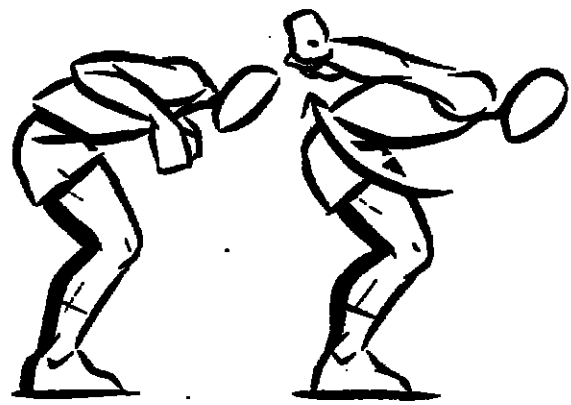
One book and you're hooked



SKIING: Graham Duffill visits a child-friendly resort where parents need not miss out on the action



**STRENGTH** (rear upper arm and shoulder & lower leg.) **① Kickbacks:** Stand with feet hip distance apart, ankles and knees



**Flexed.** Bend forward, trying to make your torso parallel with the floor. Start with upper arms close to sides, bent, hands in a fist. Keeping the upper arm motionless, straighten the arms. Repeat 15 times.



**② Calf Raises:** Stand with feet hip distance apart, toes forward. Push onto tiptoe, hold for a second, lower and then bend the knees and ankles, pushing knees forward over toes. Repeat 10 times.

Extracted from *Skilogs*, by Tessa Coker, available from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Euston Square, London NW1 2AF. £2.50 including p&p. The Times cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described.

## All skiers great and small

The simple conical shape of some of America's ski resorts makes them better family destinations than many parts of Europe. While European resorts range across mountain peaks, connected by an intricate series of lifts that makes meeting up a masterpiece of timing and planning, many US resorts are built around only half a dozen lifts.

This is ideal for families, where differences in age and ability mean members want to ski apart and meet later, but such a simple layout is often at the expense of better skiers who find the resorts undemanding.

Crested Butte (pronounced like "new" and meaning a mountain that rises out of a plain) provides such a variety of skiing that it is ideal for families. At the same time it offers such steep skiing that it hosts the annual American ski extreme championships.

The mountain is shaped like the crest of a wave, and the skiing is mainly down its front face, steep at the top and gentle at the bottom. But off both sides, there is a huge amount of steep skiing: Crested Butte's Extreme Limits area contains more Double Black Diamond, ie, "very black", runs than any other Colorado resort.

While there are no pistes, the extreme areas are patrolled and is opened only when safe from avalanche. It allows upper intermediates to get into the sort of rugged, adventurous skiing that in Europe they would call off-piste and would be accessible only to those prepared to pay for a guide.

The Extreme Limits area makes the difference between

Crested Butte being just another Colorado resort and being one of the world's greats, where the best skiers will find a challenge.

In keeping with Colorado tradition, the runs in the Limits have acquired their own names: Dead Bob's Chute, Bodybag Glades, Million Dollar Highway, Sock It To Me. You even get a pretty good idea where to avoid, with Disgusting Trees, Cesspool and Good Luck Glades.

Of the 82 marked trails, 58 per cent are graded difficult, 13 per cent green or blue, 29 per cent the equivalent of European reds. The beauty of the mountain's geography is that it can all be served by 12 lifts.

Wide slopes sweep down to the resort so gently that even the most timid beginner would find no edge over which they could imagine they might accidentally plunge. It is so easy that each week, following an evening in one of the mountain huts, skiers of all abilities ski in the dark by torchlight.

Crested Butte's ski school has many programmes for children. One of the most innovative is tag-along lessons, in which the parent or parents go along with the child and ski instructor and are actively involved in the teaching process, so that once the lesson is over they know how to help their child and which exercises to continue with.

The dilemma for the visitor is whether to stay downtown, where the main street looks like something from a Hollywood film, or 20 minutes up the hill in the Grand Butte hotel, which boasts a small



Elk Avenue, Crested Butte's attractive main street, is lined with brightly painted boutiques

shopping mall, bars and restaurants and is undoubtedly the most convenient location for families.

The Grand Butte is enormous, essential for baby-sitting parents who do not want to go stir-crazy in the evenings. The neighbouring Mountain Lair is more like a motel in style, with no restaurants or bars, but guests can use the facilities of the Grand Butte. The village itself is linked by a free shuttle bus that runs

every ten minutes. It is a one-street town — Elk Avenue, lit by Victorian-style lamps and lined with small boutiques with wooden fronts painted in different colours. They even put the town hall on rollers and moved it back three feet to bring it into line with the rest of the street.

Away from Crested Butte there are two expensive but serious options. Irwin Lodge, a luxurious mountain hut 12 miles into the wilderness above

Crested Butte and accessible in winter by snowmobile only, offers extensive snowcat skiing. This poor man's version of heliskiing has you sitting in the back of a converted piste-basher being driven up steep slopes to huge areas of untracked snow. With 24 rooms and an 8,000 sq ft lobby, Irwin is no igloo, more a hotel in the middle of nowhere.

The other option is to have a two-centre holiday and fly to Aspen for a few days. The two

**Fact file**

- The author was a guest of Crested Butte Mountain Resort and of American Airlines.
- Under-12s stay free in their parents' room in the Grand Butte.
- Some tour operators' prices in January, including flights: Ski Independence (0131 557 8555); Grand Butte £699 for two adults sharing, £629 in the Mountain Lair, children £249; Ski the American Dream (0181 470 1181); Grand Butte £719, children £279; Ski Equipe (0161 440 0010); £695, children from £249.
- Customers booking with any of the above operators receive two lift passes for the price of one. Daily rate, \$43 (about £28).
- The nursery takes children from newborn \$38 (£25) half-day; \$48 (£32) whole. Ski school, for four to 17-year-olds, costs \$59-\$70 (£39-£46) a day depending on age. Tag-along classes: \$75 (£50) for one child an hour, \$25 (£16) each additional child.
- American Airlines flights connect to Gunnison Airport, half an hour's drive from Crested Butte. Adult fares from £492 plus taxes; children from two to 11 £369 plus taxes.
- Crested Butte's information number is 0800 894 085.

resorts are effectively neighbours — a 20-minute small plane hop which in summer is just three hours on horseback over the Elk mountain range.

The planes can carry from two to eight passengers and, when full, cost \$100 (about £66) or less per person each way. Somehow, whether I am in Crested Butte and have travelled so far, the extra expense seems minimal. You could also hire a car: the drive takes three to four hours.



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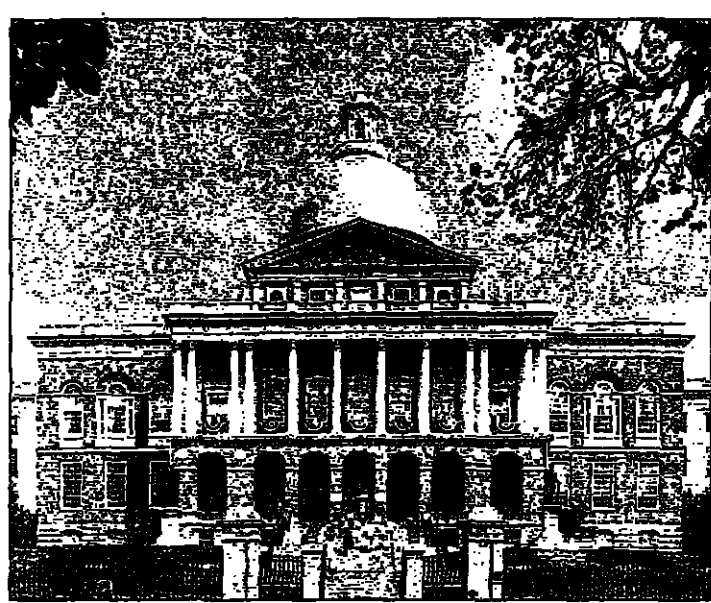
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Today we begin a week of holidays to the United States of America, beginning with a fly-drive tour of New England. After that there are holidays to California, Las Vegas, Chicago, New York and Anaheim, home to Disneyland with its new Indiana Jones Adventure.

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Previously published tokens may be obtained free of charge, until December 13, by sending a sae to:

*The Times/Sunday Times* Holiday of a Lifetime Competition, Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN.

A maximum of four tokens can be supplied per application.

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along the Kancamagus Highway, an old Indian trail. Day 11 Explore the white mountains or lakes of New Hampshire and Maine. Day 12 Visit Quebec Gorge, Vermont's mini Grand Canyon, and stop in Woodstock, a quaint village with a white clapboard church. Day 13 Visit Pittsfield and Lenox, summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Day 14 Drive back to Newark for return flight to London.

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The prize winner may travel between April 11-30, 1996. *Times* readers can book a 10% discount on all departures in 1996. The price, with our exclusive 10 per cent discount, is £697, down from £775 and includes return flights, twinshare accommodation on a room only basis, car hire and a full-tour pack with routes, hotels and sightseeing information. For more details, please call: 01369 70 77 11.

### HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize, phone your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times. The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

### THE QUESTIONS

1. For how many years has Newport hosted the America's Cup?
2. When did the Mayflower land in Plymouth?

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I enclose 30 tokens from *The Times/Sunday Times* and wish to enter the prize draw. Send to: *Around the World in 80 Days*, PO Box 6855, London E2 6SF. Closing date Friday January 12, 1996.

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Ms First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)  
 1) 15-24 ☐ 2) 25-34 ☐ 3) 35-44 ☐  
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2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

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IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW: WIN A FLY-DRIVE TRIP TO CALIFORNIA



## TRAVEL

17

WEEKEND BREAKS: How to spot the real St Petersburg; plus the literary legacy of a hotel in Torcello

## Cradle of the revolution comes of age

The women line up on the embankment, perhaps 20 of them, their backs to the river, gazing intently at the large crumbling building across the busy highway. They do not look very poor; two or three are dressed expensively, in the latest fashion. Some of the women carry binoculars; they peer through them for a while, then launch into animated sign language, aimed at some far, dark window. Others rely on the power of voice, but even their loudest shouts are often drowned out by traffic. One or two lucky ones receive a letter, dispatched by catapult and falling in the middle of the road, so that the recipient has to dodge the cars as she rushes to pick up his message. These are the women of St Petersburg communicating with their husbands, lovers and sons, held in the gloomy Kresty prison, not far from the Finland Station where, in 1917, Lenin arrived to lead the Revolution.



Smolny cathedral

avoid the areas where the people live with their everyday preoccupations and miseries. Tourist St Petersburg is seductive and exhausting; there is no time to look behind the facades. Astonishingly, in spite of the architectural ravages and high-building policies perpetrated in every other Russian city in the postwar period, the centre of St Petersburg has remained a stunningly beautiful city of low skyline, dominated by the wide River Neva, romantically iced over in winter.

The look of St Petersburg is horizontal, the vistas expansive, the views around the Neva hardly changed from when they inspired Tolstoy,

sky and Pushkin, Shostakovich and Dostoevsky (whose house-museum, a schoolgirl conducted an excellent short tour in English and refused to accept a tip). It feels totally Russian, yet most of its grand buildings are European, its architects imported at a time when only the best would do for the sparkling centre of Russian culture. Less than 300 years old — new by European city comparisons — St Petersburg is redolent with history, from its extravagant elegance under the Tsars, to its role as cradle of the Revolution and its appalling suffering during the 900 days of Nazi siege.

It's a city for walking; or rather the central part is, bounded by the small River Fontanka. Most of the great museums, palaces and churches are in the area (although some splendid examples, such as Smolny cathedral, are outside it). So is the Mariinsky Theatre, home of the Kirov ballet, the concert hall still splendid, so that the best seats cost less than a pound, and the Nevsky Prospekt, the city's broad shopping thoroughfare, now sadly starting to resemble the shopping streets of every European city.

The Winter Palace, whose storming in 1917 started the October Revolution (though more people were injured making Sergei Eisenstein's film of the event than when it happened in reality), is now the Hermitage Museum. All the superlatives are justified: more works of art than any museum in the world, but more importantly, works of extraordinarily high quality, well shown. A current exhibition of Impressionist paintings, many never seen in public before, which the Russians snatched from private German collections at the end of the war, is almost worth the trip to St Petersburg alone.

Don't be put off by the tales of violence and the mafia. The instantly recognisable — because they are so well dressed — members of the St Petersburg mafia do not interfere with the ordinary tourist, though entering the foyer of the pricey Grand Hotel Europe under their gaze is not a relaxing experience. And if you should be walking in a quiet street by a canal and see a Mercedes disgorging sharply suited men and two-coated women into a discreetly labelled restaurant, do not say: "That looks good. Let's eat there."

## MARCEL BERLINS

Progressive Tours 0711 220 1676 offers weekends in St Petersburg, including flights and accommodation, priced from £300 to £570.



A detail of the Doomsday mosaic at the Basilica of Torcello depicts the resurrection of the dead. Although small, the magnificence of the basilica is overwhelming

## Venetian haven for writers

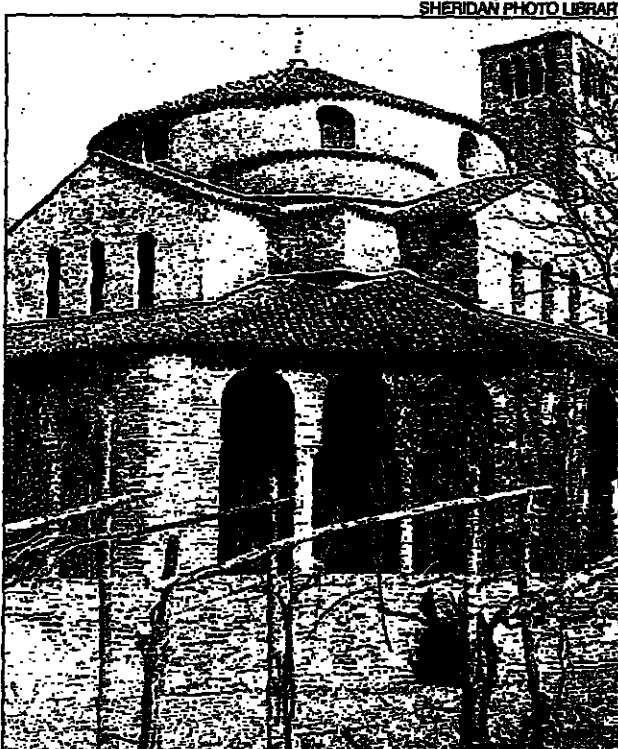
What could possibly connect three such diverse writers as Ernest Hemingway, Nancy Mitford, and Winston Churchill? The theatre of war might do for two of them; so could Paris, but the answer is: Torcello.

The small island of Torcello lies across the Venetian Lagoon from the other small, but more populated, island of Burano, famous for its lace-making and much beloved of Ezra Pound. Torcello perfectly combines the worship of God and mammon. The latter is represented by the Locanda Cipriani, first cousin of Cipriani's, the luxurious hotel in Venice proper, and of Harry's Bar (Hemingway, again). God is worshipped in the extraordinary Byzantine basilica across the grassed piazza. Small it may be, but its impact is quite as overwhelming as that of other far grander Byzantine cathedrals at Monreale or Cefalù in Sicily.

Torcello, many centuries ago, was as important as Venice. Then, it fell into disuse. After malaria struck, the great houses were left to disintegrate, and the island was abandoned to a few priests, a large number of mosquitoes, and water snakes lurking inoffensively in the side-canal. Then came Signor Cipriani, who converted a rundown bar into one of the great hotels.

To call it a hotel is faintly absurd. It is usually known for its restaurant, in the garden, with a fine view of the basilica. Eating a dish of carnelloni, followed by grilled chicken, and some fragolini di bosco (wild strawberries) is one of the most pleasant experiences on earth. It is not haute cuisine. It is simple, and perfect.

The motor launches have surged across from their landing stage near the Danieli Hotel, to arrive in time for a pre-lunch bellini, and the peace of Torcello has been shattered by innumerable tourists who have come for a rapid meal, an even more



Santa Fosca's church rises to the right of the basilica

rapid tour of the basilica, and a moment devoted to buying tablecloths and napkins swirling in the breeze near Attila's stone seat. They start nervously back from the feral cats slinking among the stephanotis bushes, and flee for the launches. Even those simpler souls who have opted for a leisurely trip across the lagoon via Murano and Burano on a public vaporetto have tottered back down the towpath.

It is now that Torcello comes into its own. To the right of the entrance into the Locanda there is a door, which leads to a flight of stairs up to the first floor. And there is a small suite called Concordia (the Locanda does not go in for room numbers), containing a bedroom, a bathroom, two

balconies (one giving on to the canal where the motor launches are moored, the other looking towards the basilica) and a small sitting room. And in the sitting-room there is a very large, handsome desk made from pale wood, rather *à la Biedermeier*. It is not one of those feeble hotel desks which contains nothing more than a few postcards and magazines advertising other hotels in the same prestigious group. This is a real desk, at which one sits down to write. It is a desk where serious books can be written, and serious thoughts pondered.

Downstairs in the Locanda, there are various photographs showing the arrival of the Prince and Princess of Wales, a very young-looking Queen

Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh, and Italian presidents and cardinals. But it is upstairs, I am sure, that the spirit of literature still presides.

The staff of the Locanda cannot pinpoint precisely which room Hemingway stayed in when he went duck-shooting in the marshes, or where Nancy Mitford pondered love in a colder climate or the unfathomable habits of the English upper classes, or indeed where Churchill contemplated victory out of defeat, and defeat out of victory. I know, though, that it was at the pale desk in Concordia that inspiration struck. There are even two of the most comfortable, deepest armchairs into which anyone could sink after a little too much grappa or brandy, or that third or fourth dry martini (I excuse Miss Mitford from these conjectures).

Some years ago, a writer called Shirley Guiton, who worked for UNESCO in Paris, went to Torcello and converted a battered old house into something habitable and delectable. She even wrote a book about her experiences with the local builders, plumbers and decorators.

All this happened many years before Peter Mayle wrote *A Year in Provence* and became a millionaire. Her book, no longer in print, was called *No Magic Eden*, and is one of the most charming travel books ever published. She did not, of course, become a millionaire.

Her account of Torcello and living there, often in harsh weather, cut off from the outside world, is the best book about the island. But, although few enough people will have read it, not many more will know about Papa Hemingway, Nancy Mitford and Winston Churchill, sadly all at different times, staying at the Locanda Cipriani. I, too, have stayed in Concordia, and I know that this is a small piece of literary Arcadia.

CHRISTOPHER SINCLAIR-STEVENSON

## Torcello: how to get there

□ The Locanda Cipriani Hotel, Torcello (00 39 41 730150/fax 735433). The hotel is open to guests from March 19 to November 10 and closed for meals on Tuesdays. Half-board costs 260,000 lira (about £108) per person per night. Full board costs 1,350,000 (about £145) per night.

□ To get there, take the hotel motorboat from the station near Danieli Hotel. For a more scenic route, take the public vaporetto from the Fondamenta Nuove, via San Michele, Murano and Burano.

□ Flights are available through the Thomas Cook Italian Travel Centre (0171-408 4125) or through your local travel agent. Prices for return flights to Venice from Heathrow or Gatwick vary from £228 economy to £500 business class.

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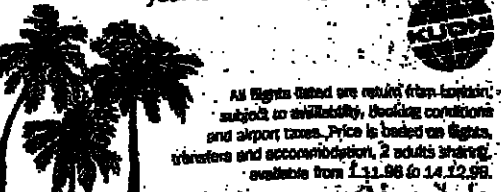
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## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from Page 23

## ANTIMONY

(b) A poisonous metal. So called, according to tradition, because of its use in a famous case of mass poisoning of monks in the 15th century by an alchemist, charmingly named Basil Valentine.

## HAMADRYAD

(a), (b) and (c). A delightful word that has several distinct meanings. Originally a Greek nymph living in trees. But also, a venomous Indian snake, and an Abyssinian baboon. "My dear Kathryn, positively you look like a hamadryad with that orange hair-do." When reproached for rudeness, you explain that you were using the word in its nymphal sense.

## DEMOPHORE

(c) Someone who has a morbid dread of crowds and massed humanity. The condition of most of us during the Christmas-shopping period and on the Circle Line during rush-hour. From the Greek *demos* the people, as in *democracy* + *phobos* to fear. One of the most common of all phobias. If all the sufferers were put together in one place, they would not like it one little bit.

## ULTRONEOUS

(c) Spontaneous, off-the-cuff, from the Latin.

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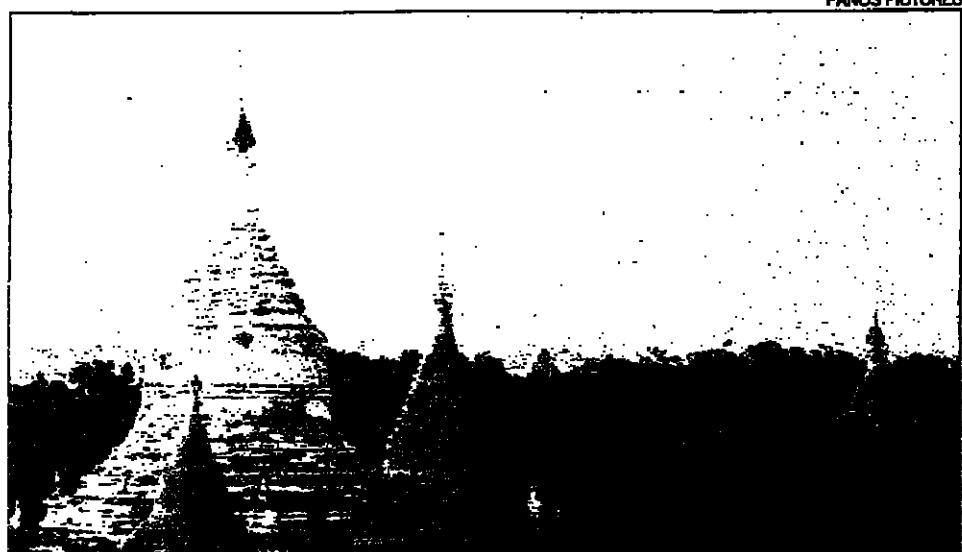
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BURMA: The people of a troubled South-East Asian nation are kind and welcoming to visitors

# Charmed on the Mandalay road

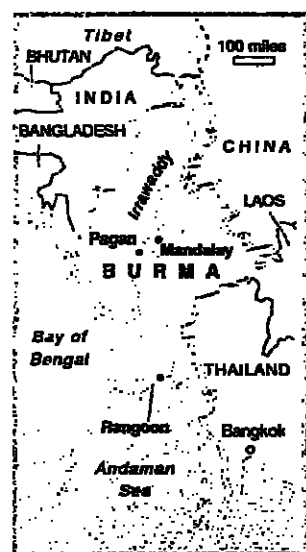


Sunset on the pagodas of Pagan, an awe-inspiring valley dotted with brown ruins

The little boy playing on the banks of the Irrawaddy was spell-bound. It was as if he had never seen a Western face before. All around, workers toiled in the fierce Burmese sun, carrying on their heads baskets of sand from barges which had come down from the border with China. There was not another Westerner to be seen. I reached for a small plastic comb, and gingerly handed it to the child. He took it, and stood there, grinning from ear to ear. Friends gathered round to examine his prize, then turned and smiled as one.

The scene, in the old quarter of Kipling's immortal Mandalay, encapsulates the great moral dilemma that is Burma. Nowhere in the world are you likely to encounter such warm, welcoming, people; touchingly innocent, genuinely pleased just to exchange a wave or a smile. Hard to believe that this is the same country where a brutal and corrupt dictatorship holds sway; a land where villagers are rounded up and put to work in chains, and where BBC World Service transmissions are jammed. By rights, it should be one of the most miserable places on Earth.

The honest answer is that it is not — at least, not as far as I could tell. I went to Burma expecting to return depressed



and angered. Instead, I encountered endless warmth. Walk through the markets of Mandalay, and eyes lock on from every corner — not threateningly, but in open fascination. Ancient lorries tussle with trishaws and bicycles, and ten-year-old copies of *Time* are the best the newsstands can offer. It is a magical experience.

The time-warp begins the moment you touch down at Rangoon (Yangon) airport. The airport terminal is in predictable chaos. Babbling porters hurl suitcases onto a creaking carousel. Somnolent grasshoppers cluster

on grime-encrusted glass. New arrivals must each convert \$300 (£200) into Foreign Exchange Certificates (FECs), which can be used to pay for tours, travel and accommodation. Burma has a thriving black market, and a thick wad of \$1 bills will go a long way.

Emerging from the terminal into the baking sun is like surfacing in Kenya in 1969. Billboards advertise Tiger Beer, Ovaltine and 555 cigarettes. Shuddering cars jostle with gleaming Mercedes limousines. Crumbling houses line the route into Rangoon — a sweeping colonial boulevard.

Burma's crackpot ruler, the ageing Ne Win, was told by a soothsayer that he needed to move the country "more to the right". His response was to make people drive on the right instead of the left.

The first stop on the tourist route is Pagan, an hour's flight up-country. Flying in Burma is no longer a life-or-death affair, provided you use Air Mandalay, equipped with gleaming new ATR-72 turboprops, or the brand-new Yangon Airways. Both are infinitely preferable to the state-run Myanma Airways, whose vintage Fokker F27s and F28s do not instil confidence.

Pagan is awe-inspiring — an endless valley dotted with

brown ruins and dazzling white spires of pagodas, framed by the vast Irrawaddy; \$5 will hire a guide and pony-cart for the day. Pagodas rise from behind trees caulked with lime. Men sidle up, offering opium and marijuana. Roadside stalls sell hand-made marionettes, swords, and lacquerware bowls.

Our guide took us into the local village, where we commandeered an entire long-boat for a cruise on the river. We were invited into somebody's home and treated like royalty. The people expect nothing — but presents are well received. Sunglasses,

pens, nail varnish and watches go down especially well. Wide-eyed children shout "Hello!", then collapse in fits of giggles. Dogs sprawl in the dust as if dead.

A glimpse of the "other" Burma came in the short drive to the airport. Farm-workers wandered along the road in groups, trimming the verges. It transpired that one of the generals was due for a visit, and the locals had been hauled in for a clean-up operation. There were no visible chains, and no troops, but one could tell something was amiss. It was whispered that chain gangs were building a railway on the other side of the river.

Mandalay is dominated by an enormous fort, protected by a broad moat, and reputedly home to 80,000 soldiers. A warning that the Tatmadaw (army) will crush any opposition is daubed near the main entrance. Passing through the portal is like entering a medieval walled city; averted eyes, and a tangible sense of fear in the air. It is an eerie place.

Far more fulfilling is the old quarter, with its dusty streets and endless sights: pots and pans, thermos flasks, baskets of locusts, salted fish, chicken legs. A trishaw, in which passengers sit back-to-back, costs about 30 cents a ride, and provides endless entertainment. Children flash "V" signs and shout: "What your country?" Second World War army jeeps dodge "line-buses", jammed with passengers. Some of the bonnets have disintegrated. A huge Lucky Strike billboard looms near the market. On the corner, is a sign: "Be kind to animals by not eating them."

One evening, I ventured out into the dark in search of a street stall. It was like wandering through an African township, but without any sense of

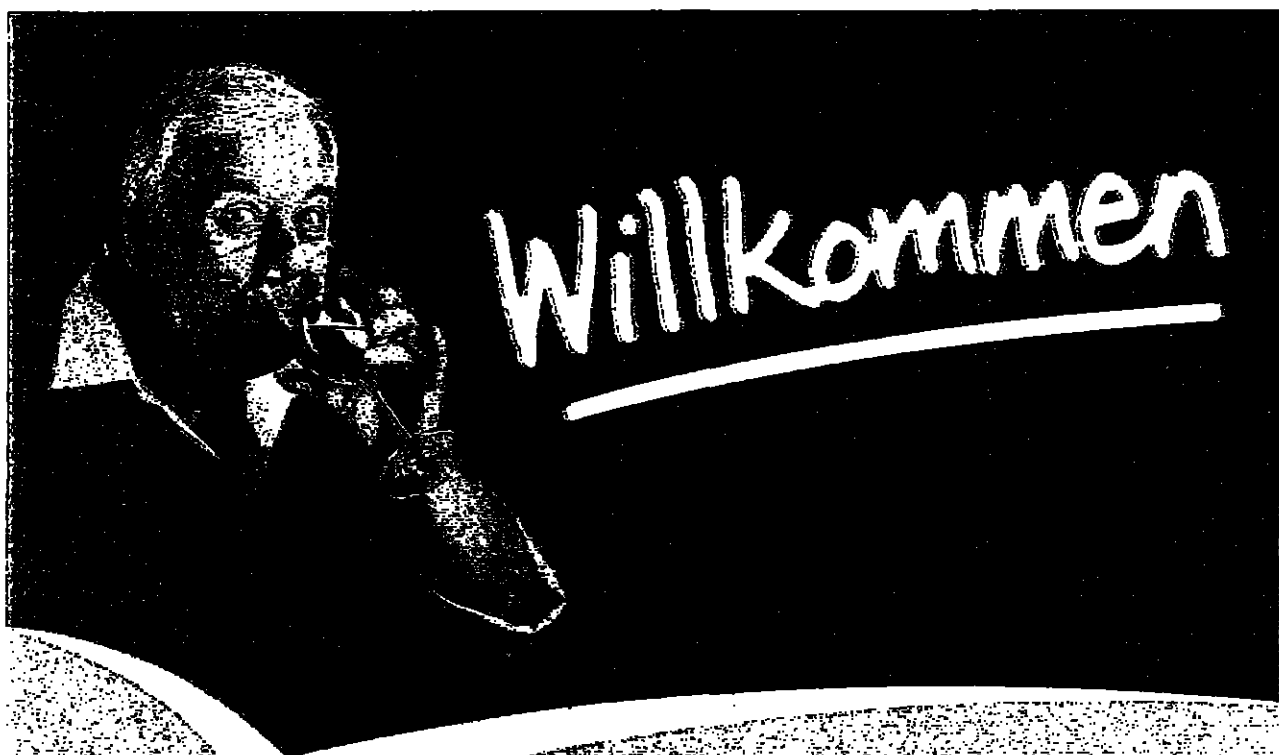
danger, fires glowing in open hearths, woodsmoke in the air. The surprised shopkeeper opened a bottle of Pepsi, and dispensed the contents into a small plastic bag, preserving the precious glass. He inserted

a straw, tied a knot, and watched as I strode off into the night, dangling my prize from one finger. Pity the darkness hid my smile.

JON ASHWORTH

## Getting there

- The author flew courtesy of Thai Airways (0171-499 9113), which flies daily from London to Bangkok. Superper fares from £589. Daily connecting returns to Rangoon cost from £165.
- Conditions can be rough in Burma — hot water can be scarce. Stay in privately-run guest houses for about \$20-\$50 (£13-£33) a night for a double room: more in Rangoon.
- Rangoon: The Baiyoke Kandawgyi Hotel has rooms from \$150 (£100).
- Pagan: The Aung Mingalar Hotel offers a small double room, with rudimentary sanitation, for \$50.
- Mandalay: The Emerald Land Inn offers double rooms from \$49 a night.
- For UK tour operators who feature Burma, contact EPG Travel UK Representatives (0181-543 3135).



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Our train is 'The Union Limited' having many original coaches from the 30s which have been upgraded. The outward appearance remains unchanged and accommodation is provided in first class four berth compartments for the use of just two persons. Berths convert to seating accommodation during the day and full sleepers during the night. Each compartment has washing facilities and each of the four sleeper carriages has a shower and WC.

Traditional menus are served in the 1933 'Protea' dining car, specifically reconstructed from the original train. Passengers may also make use of the lovely lounge/observation car for viewing or taking a snack.

Many of the sectors of the journey are steam-hauled. The train represents an era of South African railways when train travel was the way to get around the country and therefore this is not a luxury train. The train has, of course, been modified to be more comfortable than when it was first built but it should be noted that it is not air-conditioned.

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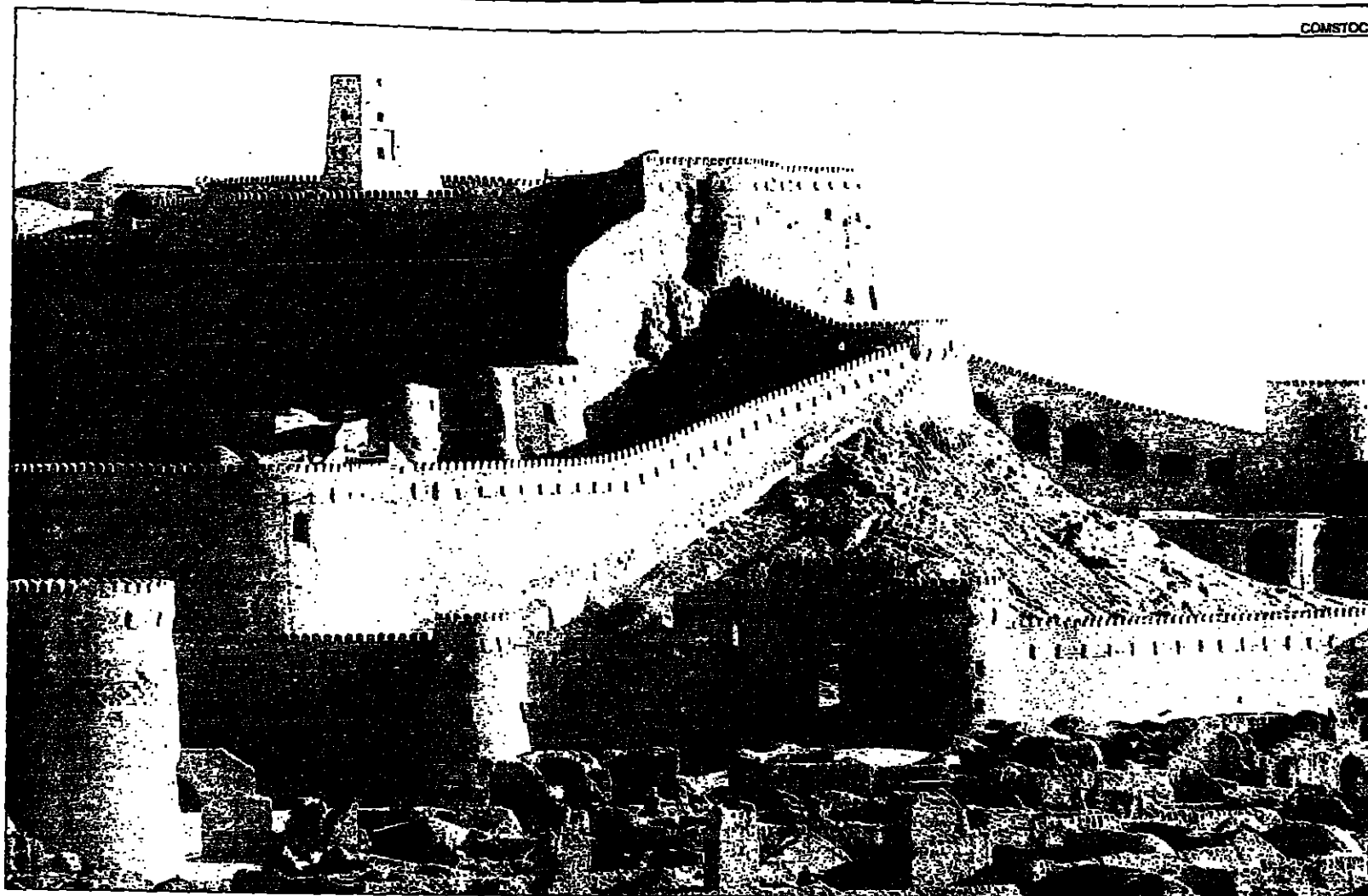
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## TRAVEL

19

INTREPID JOURNEYS: A rare visit to Iran; plus a trek through battle-scarred Afghanistan



The imposing ramparts of the citadel at the abandoned mud city of Bam preside over a jigsaw of eroded, terracotta-coloured buildings

## Ayatollahs at every turn

The last time I was here," said the British Airways stewardess as the flight descended towards Tehran, "customs confiscated my copy of *Hello!* I think it was Pamela Anderson they objected to."

Iran may still draw the line at scantily clad *Baywatch* babes, but Western tourists, once viewed as little better than cultural contaminants, are now having considerably more luck getting into this strange and fascinating land. Iran is experiencing a thaw as moderates within the "mullahcracy" attempt to engineer a rapprochement with the West. This has had a conspicuous effect upon the visa process: tourists are now being okayed with something close to bureaucratic abandon, as long as they are booked with a tour group and not intending to travel independently.

On the streets, risqué hints of colour are enlivening the traditional monotonies of women's regulation scarves and coats. Much of the colourful anti-Western rhetoric such as floor-painted Stars and Stripes alongside the invitation to "Step on America" has now disappeared, which is to be welcomed, although West-

erners tend to track down surviving examples such as the flight attendant's brass "Down with USA" adorning the entrance of the swish Homa Hotel in Shiraz, if only for their curiosity value. Generally, however, belligerent references to the Great Satan have given way to charming if unsophisticated tourism sentiments such as the "We go trip by-bye" stencilled on the windows of our tour bus.

It is estimated that Iran attracts as few as 10,000 tourists each year, of whom just a few hundred are British. Visitors are likely to have this astonishingly varied country largely to themselves as they absorb impressions that at once confirm, and contradict, their lurid expectations. Murals of Ayatollah, or Imam, Khomeini may be everywhere, but so are wall paintings of the likes of Bugs Bunny, Rapunzel, and the Seven Dwarfs. For every



Khomeini gazes down from a mural at Isfahan

intimidating-looking mullah, visitors will experience a taxi-driver who speaks good English and demonstrates an impressive pre-revolutionary knowledge of places such as Huntingdon.

Isfahan was in mourning for a much-loved local Ayatollah on the day we arrived, and it was in this city of handsome bridges and sky-blue domes that the Islamic Republic felt most thrillingly familiar — but never remotely threatening. Black flags flew around the imposing Imam Square, formerly a polo field for Persian princes, and the great Friday Mosque was spectacularly festooned in black shrouds.

In the city's market, a maze of vaulted corridors flanked by cramped premises piled high with carpets, metalwork and sacks of dried rose petals, a young man gently collared me and led me to his shop. "My grandfather was a very famous miniature artist," Reza explained, showing me examples of the worked pieces of wood and bone decorated with neatly painted pastoral scenes for which the city is famous. "He refused to sell any of his work during his life, so they have become very valuable. If you would like to see some of his pieces, we may be prepared to sell..."

Reza's sales patter by Middle Eastern standards. "We are not used to tourists," Cyrus, our tour guide, explained. "Besides, we are not like the Arabs. Riders of camels," he summarily dismissed them. "We are horsemen."

Beyond the impressive remains at the ancient Persian city of Persepolis, the road led to the city of Shiraz, renowned for lush gardens where nightingales still sing. At the resting place of the 14th-century poet Rumi, in a quiet garden full of citrus trees and roses, Cyrus recited a few lines over the poet's tomb. As he read, several young men at our back joined in, unbidden and quite by heart. Typically Iranian, a supposed police state had revealed itself to be full of poets and garden enthusiasts.

As we travelled east, rocks protruded sheer and without warning from the otherwise endlessly flat steppe, as if we were crossing a great, dun sea patterned by islands. Despite the surprisingly good roads, touring in a country half the size of India entails long drives. We took picnic breaks in the shade of the caravanserai dotted along the ancient silk routes that criss-cross Iran. There, curious villagers brought us handfuls of pomegranates and dates, smiled at us from darkened doorways, or even presented their camels for our inspection.

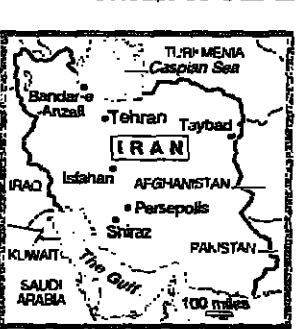
In this impressively severe semi-desert stood the abandoned mud city at Bam, a collection of eroded, terracotta-coloured buildings oozing dilapidated atmosphere in the shadow of a summit citadel's imposing ramparts. At Yazd, centre of the dwindling Zoroastrian faith, we watched the sun set over the haunting

Towers of Silence. Until the practice was abandoned in the 1970s, and in the belief that their corpses would infect the holy earth, members of this ancient faith brought their dead to these hilltop platforms open to the skies, and left them for the vultures. The few bones that remained spoke eloquently for this unearthly place.

But it was beyond the mountains to the north that the beaten track, thin in much of Iran, seemed to peter out entirely. As the bus descended towards the Caspian, we passed through thick stands of jungle shrouded in mist to emerge by a neglected shore, which was lined with paddy fields. Discos and casinos from the Shah's time, when this coast was the country's resort playground, have been turned into army barracks or simply closed. The hotels have gone to seed, their bars shut down and their swimming pools emptied and re-plumbed as Islamically acceptable, if Heath-Robinsonesque, fountains.

"You must see the last of the water lilies," said a boatman, and insisted on showing us the Anzali marshes. As the reeds closed in around the wooden longboat, kingfishers flashed blue about our heads. Egrets, herons and eagles took flight and the sky turned black as the noise of the outboard engines put up multitudes of duck and snipe. We disembarked at the port of Bandar-e Anzali, where the marshes meet the sea and water swirl around precarious rows of shabby shacks. The boatman refused any offer of money. "I've never had tourists in my boat before," he said. "I'm only glad that you came."

## JEREMY SEAL



## How to get there

□ The author was a guest of Exodus (0181-675 5550) on its 19-day Journey to Persia tour, which runs during the spring and autumn and costs, fully inclusive of flights, accommodation and meals, £1,695. He was also a guest of Iran specialists Magic Carpet Travel (0171-385 9975), who offer a range of tours or can tailor-make itineraries as required.

□ Entry visas cost £33 and can be applied for by either company on their clients' behalf.

□ Alcohol is strictly banned in Iran. Women are expected to keep their hair covered in public at all times. The best time to visit is in spring and autumn.

□ Guides to Iran: Lonely Planet (£8.95); Odyssey (£11.95).

## Revisiting the land of guns and roses

Afghanistan, according to the writer Bruce Chatwin, was once a land where men in mountainous turbans strolled hand in hand with roses in their mouths and rifles wrapped in chintz. Until the Soviet invasion 16 years ago, it was also a cult destination which ranked with Tibet or Angkor.

Wondering what had become of a country that was a magnet for so many travellers in the 1970s, I set off from the Iranian frontier at Taybad last year to follow the old tourist trail to three of its biggest attractions: the Silk Road towns of Herat and Balkh, and the ancient Buddhist capital of Bamian in the Hindu Kush. Across the border, I found an antique bus, covered with swirling floral decorations and imprecations to Allah, on to which I scrambled for the six-hour ride to Herat.

We drove east into a desolate landscape of bare rolling camel-coloured hills, occasionally passing through villages built entirely of old shipping containers, which have replaced traditional Afghan mud-brick architecture in some outlying villages because they offer protection from bandits who prowled the hills.

Around Herat, the results of the war are clearly visible: once a valley of orchards and vines, it is now a dust bowl. Of all the Afghan towns I visited, Herat saw the most fighting. It was a pleasant surprise, therefore, to wander round on my first day and find so much intact. The old town, still one of the best preserved walled cities in Asia, has the air of a Balkan village untouched since the last century. Dusty, tree-lined streets wind through bazaars selling everything from Japanese television sets to the locally blown blue glass for which the town is famous.

Many of Herat's monuments date from its golden age in the 15th century when the descendants of Tamerlane, Mongol conqueror of Asia, moved the Imperial court here from Samarkand after his death in 1405. Yussuf, my guide, was able to show me most of what is left in a day.

Seen through the dust haze in town, our first destination was a smudge of green on a distant hillside: but as we clattered towards it, in Yussuf's Moskvitch, there materialised a scatter of monumental buildings amid cool, sheltering gardens of umbrella pines — a delightful contrast to dustblown Herat. Ever since it was built in 1428 by Tamerlane's youngest son Shah Rukh, the shrine at Gazar Gah has been a favourite Herati resort, a place for picnics as well as pilgrims.

Looking down on Herat from the terraces of Gazar Gah, Yussuf pointed out a group of what looked like factory chimneys rising from the plain just north of town. This is the Musalla, and these towering bulb minarets are the only survivors of a vast complex of sumptuous mosques and colleges once built by Shah Rukh and his grandson Hussein Baikara to rival Tamerlane's Samarkand.

Unlike Gazar Gah, the Musalla, standing in a no-man's land between the Russian and the Mujahidin forces, did not have a good war. Of the six minarets that were here before the war, five have survived, but are scarred by bullets and holed by shellfire. Almost nothing remains of their tilework.

While future travellers will come, as I did, to pay mournful homage to these lost masterpieces, many of the other important monuments in Herat have barely changed from prewar times. You can still sit in the flagged courtyard of the Friday Mosque, which dates from 1200, and admire the swirling arabesques and gentian inscriptions that cover every inch of its tiled walls; or see the Citadel, restored during the war and whose grim mud battlements command the town as though cannon were still in the future.

Beyond Herat, travelling is more difficult. I found a convoy of sheepskin dealers who were making the journey and agreed to take me with them.

For ten days, we drove through a moonscape of bare hills and dusty tumbledown villages. Eventually, we descended from the mountains on to the Turkistan plain which stretches north into Uzbekistan as far as the Kirghiz steppe. To the south, blue snowcapped shone on the northern ramparts of the Hindu Kush. My companions depos-

later, Marco Polo visited the ruins on his way to China.

My brief visit told me only that this epitaph to a civilisation has not, like the Musalla at Herat, become an epitaph to an epitaph. Genghis Khan, rather than the Russians or the Mujahidin, still has the last word on wrecking Balkh.

The final stage of my journey took me high up the Hindu



Merchants dressed in traditional chapans

## Afghanistan: fact file

□ At present only charity workers and journalists can obtain visas. If the situation changes, Hinderland Travel (01883 743384) will include Afghanistan in its 38-day Caravan Tour from September 1996 (£2,850, excluding flights, visas, food and any accommodation). An alternative route is also planned. The Foreign Office advises travellers not to go to Afghanistan.

Standing on the head of the larger Buddha as the sun dipped to the rim of the Koh-i Baba mountains in the west, the dangers of Bamian seemed far away. But it is unlikely many other travellers will enjoy this experience until peace returns. But for those too impatient to wait, who want to see something of this appealing country in moderate comfort and without the risks to life and limb posed by AK-47-toting teenagers, go to Herat and see what you have missed over the past 16 years.

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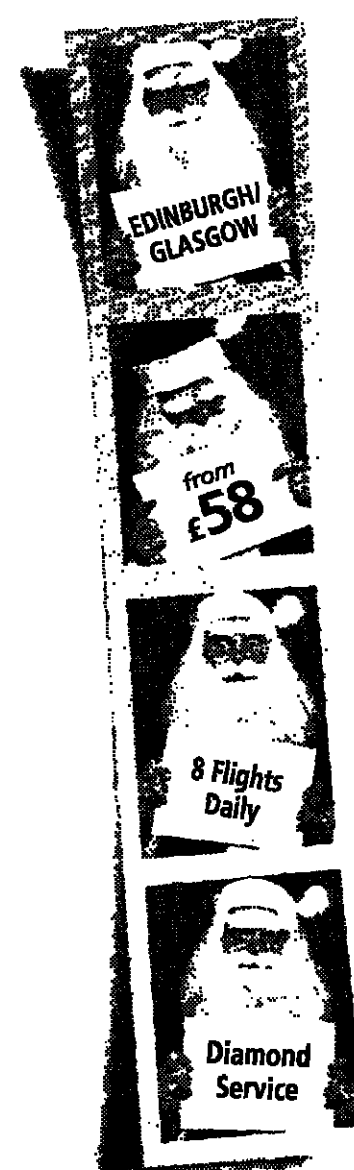
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## TRAVEL

21

ROUND-UP: The bargain that was too good to be true; pick of the package holidays; disruption in India

## Perils of a cut-price flight deal

The unfortunate experience of a young Worcester couple who planned to spend Christmas with family in New Zealand should serve as a salutary warning to anyone booking a cut-price flight.

Andrew Brooks and his wife Justine had saved for more than three years to visit their family more than 11,400 miles away. So when a television "small ad" on Teletext offered a return flight on Japan Airlines for £950 each they realised they could finally afford it.

Bradley and Vaughan (B&V), a north London agency specialising in long-haul travel, took their booking on August 25. "We asked the person who took the booking whether it was confirmed, and he said it was as long as we sent the total amount," Mr Brooks said. Accordingly, he paid a deposit of £300 followed, a week later, by the balance of £1,620, including £20 for the airport departure tax. He quickly received confirmation and a booking receipt.

There was, it seemed, no more to do but plan for the trip which involved JAL flights from Heathrow to Osaka on December 17 and on to Christchurch a day later. "They said the tickets would be with us two to three weeks before the flight," Mr Brooks said.

Then came the bombshell. "On Friday, November 24, I received a phone call to inform me that our flight was not confirmed and we were on a waiting list," he said. Frantic with worry, the couple contacted the agency who insisted that they had never been promised confirmed tickets and should have known that

they were on a waiting list. "These were very keenly priced tickets which we obtained through a consolidator. If Mr Brooks says he was not aware of that we can't disbelieve him but there has clearly been a misunderstanding."

Consolidators are intermediaries who offer to take up unsold tickets in bulk from airlines at a big reduction and then sell them on to travel agents or through advertisements. Most airlines try to distance themselves from consolidators and some even deny that they use them. But rather than be stuck with thousands of unsold seats, they prefer to take what income they can get.

At times this works well, especially in the slack months, such as November or February. But it does not work when numbers are booming, and especially at peak times — such as just before and after Christmas — when most seats can be sold at their full quoted price.

Brooks, for Mr and Mrs Brooks, they were hoping to fly at just such a difficult time. The Brooks had no choice but to try to find an alternative flight. A round trip with British Airways cost them £700 more than the flight they thought they had booked.

B&V has promised to refund the payment made to it in full. Japan Airlines said: "We are extremely sorry for the couple. But it must be the travel agents' responsibility to explain to clients exactly what is involved in the booking."

HARVEY ELLIOTT



Escape the dreary winter weather with a trip to Kenya. A seven-night safari with Abercrombie & Kent costs £1,868, including a stay at a tree hotel

Join Swan Hellenic's new ship, the *Minerva*, on her maiden voyage which departs from Genoa on April 29 and visits Naples, Capri, Messina, Olympia, Crete, Rhodes, Ephesus, Delos, and Delphi, finishing in Venice. The cruise will include panelists from *Gardener's Question Time* who will be broadcasting from *Minerva* on May 5. Passengers are invited to submit gardening questions. The cruise costs £2,810, including outward flight from Gatwick to Genoa and return from Venice, all meals, excursions, entrance fees, portage and gratuities. Details and reservations: 0171-800 2200.

Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) is offering a 24-day expedition to Peru, including the northern Andean town of Cajamarca, the adobe brick city of Chan Chan and the ancient Inca capital of Cuzco. Departing on May 17, the expedition costs £1,322 per person, including return flights from Heathrow or Gatwick, guides, transport and some excursions.

Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600) has a seven-night safari in Kenya which includes a night in Nairobi, a stay in a tree hotel by a floodlit waterhole and three nights at

the Masai Mara National Game Reserve. Departing on December 9, the cost of £1,868 includes full board on safari. B&B in Nairobi, return flights, transfers and entrance fees to the game parks.

Celebrate the New Year in Rome and the traditional celebrations with a short break from CV Travel (0171-581 0851). Festivities include fireworks that light the city when viewed from one of its seven hills, and a New Year's Day service in the Vatican with a blessing by the Pope. Four nights B&B at the four-star Hotel Raphael cost from £584 per person, including return scheduled flights from Heathrow or Gatwick.

Great Rail Journeys (01904 679969) is offering a narrow-gauge railway journey across the Alps via the Oberalp Pass. The trip includes an excursion to Zermatt and Interlaken with the opportunity to travel to Europe's highest railway station some 11,333ft up the Jungfrau mountain, plus a journey on the Rhaetian Railway to St. Moritz. Visitors stay in Brig and the medieval

town of Chur and have one night in Brussels. Departing June 30 or September 8, taking Eurostar and TGV from Waterloo. Price £690 per person including return rail travel, transfers, excursions and seven nights half-board plus one night B&B.

Leger Holidays (01709 839830) has a seven-day coach trip through Austria in January, February and March next year. The first trip leaves on January 21 and includes four nights half-board at a hotel in the Austrian Tyrol, with excursions to Kitzbühel, Kirchberg, Innsbruck and Salzburg. Priced £219, based on two sharing half-board hotel accommodation, the trip includes breakfast in France or Belgium and executive coach travel.

A four-day break in Venice from England and Wales can be booked through Cox and Kings (0171-873 5013). Staying at the five-star Hotel Danieli, the break includes cocktails on Christmas Eve, black-tie dinner and the chance to attend Midnight Mass at St. Mark's. Prices from £950 per person sharing a twin room, sightseeing, B&B and return flights.

For single travellers, Companions Worldwide (01628 826903) has a four-night break at the La Manga Club in South East Spain from December 30-January 3. A range of activities includes golf, tennis and riding. The cost of £575 includes return flights from Gatwick, use of a hire car and a New Year's Eve party.

A Christmas break in Germany's Moselle Valley, departing on December 23, is on offer from Moswin Tours (016 271 9922). The six-day holiday includes a trip to the Elbe Mountains and the ancient city of Trier plus a river journey to Zell-Mosel for wine-tasting. The break costs £275 per person, based on two sharing, and includes return coach travel and half-board hotel accommodation.

A specialist gardening tour of the Italian Lakes, bookable through Page and May (0116 252444), departs on April 21 for seven nights. Accommodation is in four and three-star hotels. The holiday costs £975 per person, including return flights from Heathrow or Manchester, half-board accommodation, excursions, entrance fees and guides.

PERRY CLEVELAND-PECK

## Goa in airport chaos

INDIA appears not to want tourists this winter. Thousands of holidaymakers to Goa are being disrupted by a decision to alter the granting of landing slots to charter planes. Goa is primarily a military airport. So civilian aircraft must abide by the naval authorities' decision.

Inspirations, a travel specialist to Goa, was forced to reschedule the time or date of more than 60 380-seater aircraft over the winter season. Thousands of clients have been affected.

My family is among them. Our flight, booked seven months ago, has been rescheduled three days earlier. My sons, who break up from school that day, can just catch the plane; my husband's work was less easy to re-arrange, but he is now able to come with us.

The return journey is more tricky. The company can get us back one day away from our original choice, but the only flight available is to Manchester rather than London. The flight lands early evening on New Year's Eve, too late to catch the last train to London. That means booking — and paying for — a hotel room in Manchester.

I HAVE worked in India for 15 years. This is our first family trip to India and I wanted it all to be perfect. It was a profound disappointment that India had let me down. Some have put up with the inconvenience. Many have gone to a more reliable country for winter sun.

Goa is now one of the top destinations for European winter sun-seekers and tourism is its second most lucrative industry. India has created havoc with the goodwill of many of its clients.

LOUISE NICHOLSON

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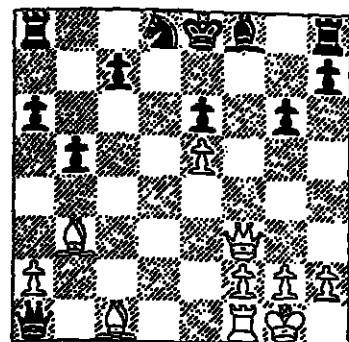




## CHESS

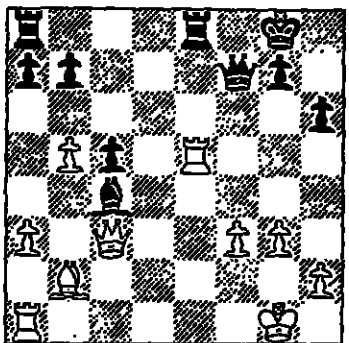
by Raymond Keene

This week I deal with several readers' queries about critical positions from the world title clash between Kasparov and Anand. This diagram shows a variation from the 10th game.



Here White can simply capture the black rook on a8, but Kasparov, in his notes, indicated that the continuation 1 Qb6 is stronger. If then 1... Rg8 2 Bg5 Qd4 3 Rd1, winning. Also strong is 1... Rg8 2 Bx6. Peter Wylie of Devon, therefore, suggested that Black would do better to ignore the attack on his rook with 1 Qb6 Qd4 2 Qxh8 Qh4. However, White can then maintain his very powerful initiative with 3 Qg8 Qe7 4 Bb6. Now Black is completely tied down as 4... Qf7 is met simply by 5 Qh8 and 4... Nf7 5 Bxh8 Qxh8 6 Qd7 leaves Black with a ragged and disorganised position which he will ultimately lose.

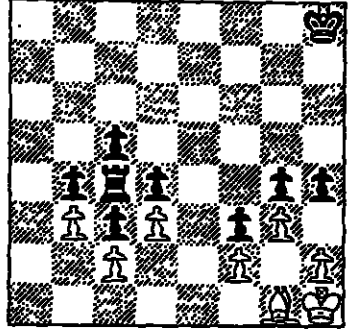
On October 21, I published a Winning Move puzzle based on a variation from game 4.



The solution was 1 R5, where White wins material, since 1... Qx5 fails to 2 Qxg7 checkmate, while 1... Qg6 allows 2 Qx4+.

George Reith of Midlothian has, however, suggested the ingenious defence 1... Re3. This comes close to saving Black, since 2 Qx3 Qx5 is relatively harmless. But after 1 Rf5 Re3 2 Rxf7 Rxc3 3 Rxb7, followed by Rg7+, White maintains his advantage. Still, it was a brilliant defensive suggestion.

I have been sent the following puzzle by schoolboy Matthew Partridge of London SE12. It is dedicated to his recently deceased grandmother, Elizabeth Gunn. Black to play and mate in six.



The composer has allowed himself a certain licence by imprisoning White's bishop on g1 but the basic variations are still attractive. They are: (a) 1... h3 2 dxc4 d3 3 cxd3 c2 4 d4 c1 5 d5 Qf1 6 d6 Qg2 mate.

Or (b) 1... h3 2 bxc4 b3 3 cxb3 c2 4 b4 c1 5 b5 Qf1 6 b6 Qg2 mate.

Finally this week, Dr P. Vicary of Weybridge, Surrey has expressed interest in the game Janowski-Tarrasch, Ostend 1905, which I published on October 25. Dr Vicary points out that no pieces in this game were taken or exchanged until move 22, and asks which game between top players went the furthest before any piece or pawn was removed from the board. This is, indeed, intriguing, and I invite readers' answers. A copy of my book *The Times Winning Chess* to the reader who sends me details of the grandmaster game which went furthest before a capture was made. Entries to reach me by Friday, December 29.

## WINNING MOVE

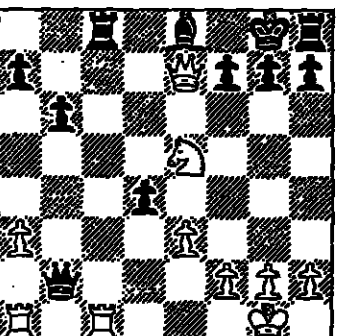
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Geir-Olafsson, Reykjavik 1953. White clearly has good tactical chances, but must act quickly as Black has threats himself. What is White's strongest continuation?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Q8.

Last week's winners: B Davies, Shirley, Solihull, W Midlands; J Leslie, Birmingham, Cheshire; A Newman, Old Portsmouth, Hants.



## PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption 85, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 6.



"Really, father, this Beatelemnia is getting rather out of hand."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Howard Lions of Northwood

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

## ANTIMONY

- a. Contradiction
- b. Poison metal
- c. A savoury herb

## HAMADRYAD

- a. A tree nymph
- b. A snake
- c. A baboon

## DEMOPHOBE

- a. A right-wing zealot
- b. A mass panic
- c. A dreader of crowds

## ULTRONEOUS

- a. Vengeful
- b. Blaming
- c. Off-the-cuff

Answers on page 17

## COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



Frankenstein: a glossy point-and-click tale

ONE OF the latest interactive adventures gracing our screens is Interplay's *Frankenstein*, starring Tim Curry as the Swiss student doing a good line in recycling spare body parts. This is a glossy point-and-click tale which is vividly set in Frankenstein's castle and in which you adopt the role of his odd-job monster. You must cover all floors of the isolated building to hunt out clues and solve a series of riddles.

What you see is nicely atmospheric, although the sound effects don't go far enough to enhance the mood. The biggest drawback, though, is the game's speed as you click and shuffle your way around. It is all terribly laboured.

Just what Mary Shelley, Frankenstein's creator, would make of it all is anyone's guess. A fine line from her novel (published when she was 20 in 1818) might do the trick: "Everywhere I see bliss, from which I alone am irrevocably excluded." However, what Curry does brings to the role is a tongue-in-cheek sense of humour. "Cat got your tongue?" he asks you, his dumb creation, when you first come to life.

To be frank, Interplay's better thriller at the moment is

*Stonekeep*. This is a 3D dungeon runaround over-loaded with dank atmosphere. It is a solid newcomer to the genre, and 50 readers have a chance to reserve themselves a PC CD-Rom demo disc of the entire first level, on a first come, first served basis. Write, giving your name and address, to *Times/Stonekeep* Discs, THP, 45 Islington Park Road, London N1 1QB.

From possible terror to Screamer, Virgin Interactive's car-racing game. Promising all the "tension, speed and atmosphere of an arcade racer", the game offers a choice of cars and tracks, but performs poorly. Car control is slack and the graphics just about grind along.

It is similar in style to *Daytona USA*, which boasts some of the best racing graphics around. This game — on PC, CD-Rom and Sony's 32-bit PlayStation console — quickly fires up the game each time you become the cause of another pile-up on the track. The crash effects are truly nerve-jarring.

Over in the Sega camp, the

racing diamond *Virtua Racing* is being re-released for Sega's 32-bit Saturn console. A 16-bit Mega Drive classic of long standing, it is sure to be another superior racer because it already has a golden game engine before any tinkering and fine-tuning of the graphics.

IF CONSOLE racing games are a tad too frantic, Europress has something much less noisy in *Gone Fishing*. This PC CD-Rom

takes you fresh-water fishing on Lake Ontario's Bay of Quinte. It covers everything you need to know to hook prize catches — from tackle, bait and angling tactics to fish behaviour. The programme includes a fish finder to give you the lowdown on the eight species that you might catch, such as pike, walleye and bass.

The game element takes you to the warm-water lake where you must seek out one of 20 prime fishing areas along 50 miles of shoreline. Should you land a whopper, you have the choice of keeping your catch or photographing it before putting it back into the water. To pick up further hints to improve your skills, you must encounter the guru of fishermen everywhere, the old guy in the fishing lodge. He doesn't mention it, but he's sure to have heard the one all fisherman seem to tell about the two fish in a tank. The one asks the other, "How do you drive this thing?"

Drinking like a fish is a sport for some — and they should get plenty from *The Wines of France*, the

non-politically correct title of the minute. This tells you everything you shouldn't want to know about delicious French wines and the country's wine industry. Credited as a co-production of "The EC media program's Media Investment Club" and Philips Media, the title charts the best vintage years for the 12 wine regions and provides a glossary of terminology.

In the "Food and Wine" chapter, three French chefs marry a variety of wines to menus and spell out their reasons: "Geography" explores the wine regions with tours; "Wine Cellar" boasts a database of thousands of French wines and, finally, "Wine Lore" explains the nitty-gritty of the art of wine: how to decipher French wine labels and other useful tips to help you to focus more clearly on the right choices.

You also receive a fine helping of wine-tasting hints. To put new-found wisdom to the test, not a few bottles of precious nectar but a quick game called *Wine Steward*. Amusing — but no substitute for the real thing.

It's a naive domestic Burgundy without any breeding, but I think you'll be amused by its presumption." James Thurber (1937).

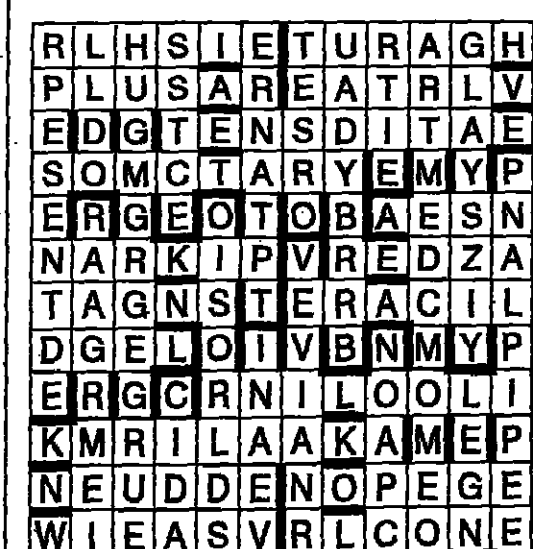
## THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3334: Every Second Counts by Bureaucat

THE author of this puzzle requires you to highlight his name and three different addresses in the grid. The author initially and a kindly quotation can consistently be found (in less than a minute!) from the one superfluous word in each clue in order.

## ACROSS

- 1 Stop long or short person losing head (4)
- 4 Late Turner, perhaps, with one red misty schooner at front (4)
- 8 Oil well owner of little pot (5)
- 12 Faultless plan cheers gloomy old house steward (5)
- 13 Bar to return of teller of tales (4)
- 14 Hero spurned in Polynesia Island University (4)
- 15 Cane disturbed teenage menace needed to face (4)
- 16 I objectively twice take number twenty displaying ability to recall (5)
- 17 Possibly producer of quarantine restrictions missing violent criminal becomes killer on large scale (3)
- 19 Cliff or Deep Throat (5)
- 20 Albatross would make this one of four invited (3)
- 21 Straight type of woody agaric contained hooded upper lip (6)
- 22 Clean French River dropping in scale at first; that's favoured by conservationists (5)
- 23 Product of one in unproductive line (5)
- 26 Every long astragal back to front (4)
- 30 Pool upset — thirteen nothing (3)
- 31 Nuclear switchgear could make this high possibly; it would usually be hot (3)



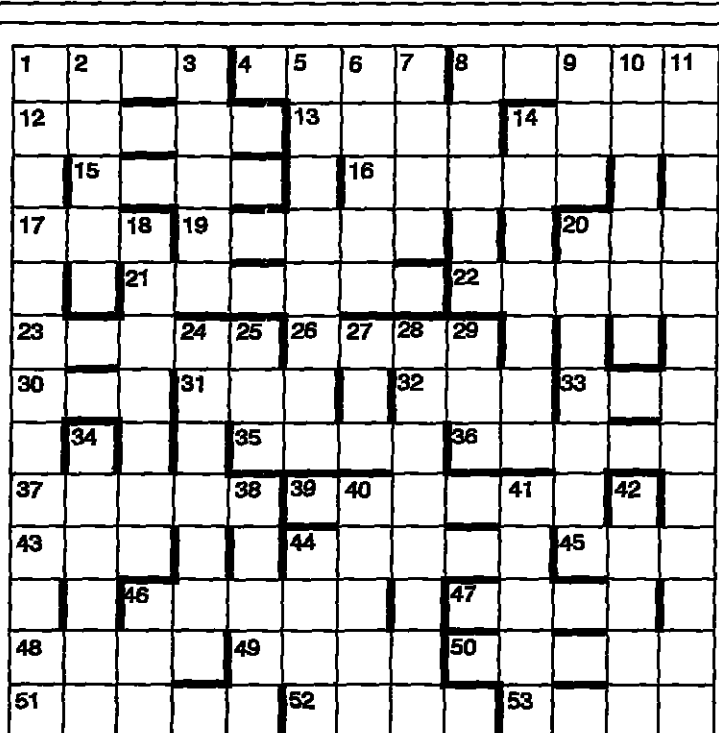
Solution to No. 3331: Polymath by 1x  
The extraneous words gave the quotation:  
"I have taken all knowledge to be my province."

The winner is Mrs D. Waller of Rayleigh, Essex.  
The runners-up are F.K. Lyness of Richmond, Surrey, and A.J. Moore of Sheffield.

- 32 Tailless 36 bird missing 36 gathering (3)
- 33 Make right without just more than one over the eight also cross (3)
- 35 Possibly imitation at end plus superior in middle (4)
- 36 Author of little red book's religious teaching people found blasphemous in Antipodes (5)
- 37 At least two hundred sen that is money taken by one responsible for kidnapped relation (5)
- 39 Internal combustion engine containing sheared nut that could cause spluttering and coughing (6)
- 43 Camel-hair coat found in Egyptian shopping bag (3)
- 44 Community thought nothing excluded American dream (5)
- 45 Scottish jackdaw holding English parrot in 36 parts (3)
- 46 One will exhaust back (5)
- 47 Camp of two enemies changing sides (4)
- 48 Oxford Street row on this service telling of independent schools (4)
- 49 Sickness (not sea) added to Manchester United sloth (4)
- 50 Collection of tipsters' tips after market close without fail (5)
- 51 Scottish anglers do take fish like salmon (5)
- 52 Shakespeare's noted kinsman friendly when following prince (4)
- 53 Mixed material without pitch in bus shelter (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Hypersensitive traumatic discharge is not once wedding in natural surroundings I see (13)
- 2 Small flaws in glass egg could be crocodile (5)
- 3 Curved rise could be accentuated in French region (5)
- 5 In piece finger new bugle calls for instance (3)
- 6 Chinese gentle dog in letter to mistress (5)
- 7 Dynasty odd couple stink (4)
- 8 Mock one stumbling on run (5)
- 9 Fashion common shoe (3)
- 10 Transpose in cheeky banter paste for old gems (6)
- 11 Fantastic clue about replacing very good Scottish presumption (13)
- 14 Failure to recall rising first class graduate institution including component of 37 (7)
- 18 I studied Latin before main artists' quarter (7)
- 19 Spangled frog dry for two days becomes glad (7)
- 24 Bounds about opera, hangs about snobrette (7)
- 25 Jugged hare could be cooked with new stuffing (3)
- 27 Drawing arrear toplems means of transport (3)
- 28 Pleasant food allays fit upset (5)
- 29 Turkish bath lacking silent heater becomes imposition (3)
- 34 Finally dispose of unpleasant smell contained by using graphite in bath (6)
- 38 Swig of whisky to wit my royal tipple (5)
- 40 Religious associate planted holy fig tree (5)
- 41 Freedom advanced first and last for universal description of creator, in his wisdom, of world republic (5)
- 42 Cover interior with metal three times not once (5)
- 44 Monkey with account one short of five hundred (4)
- 46 In the company of reformed drinkers I nurse headache (3)



## LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3334

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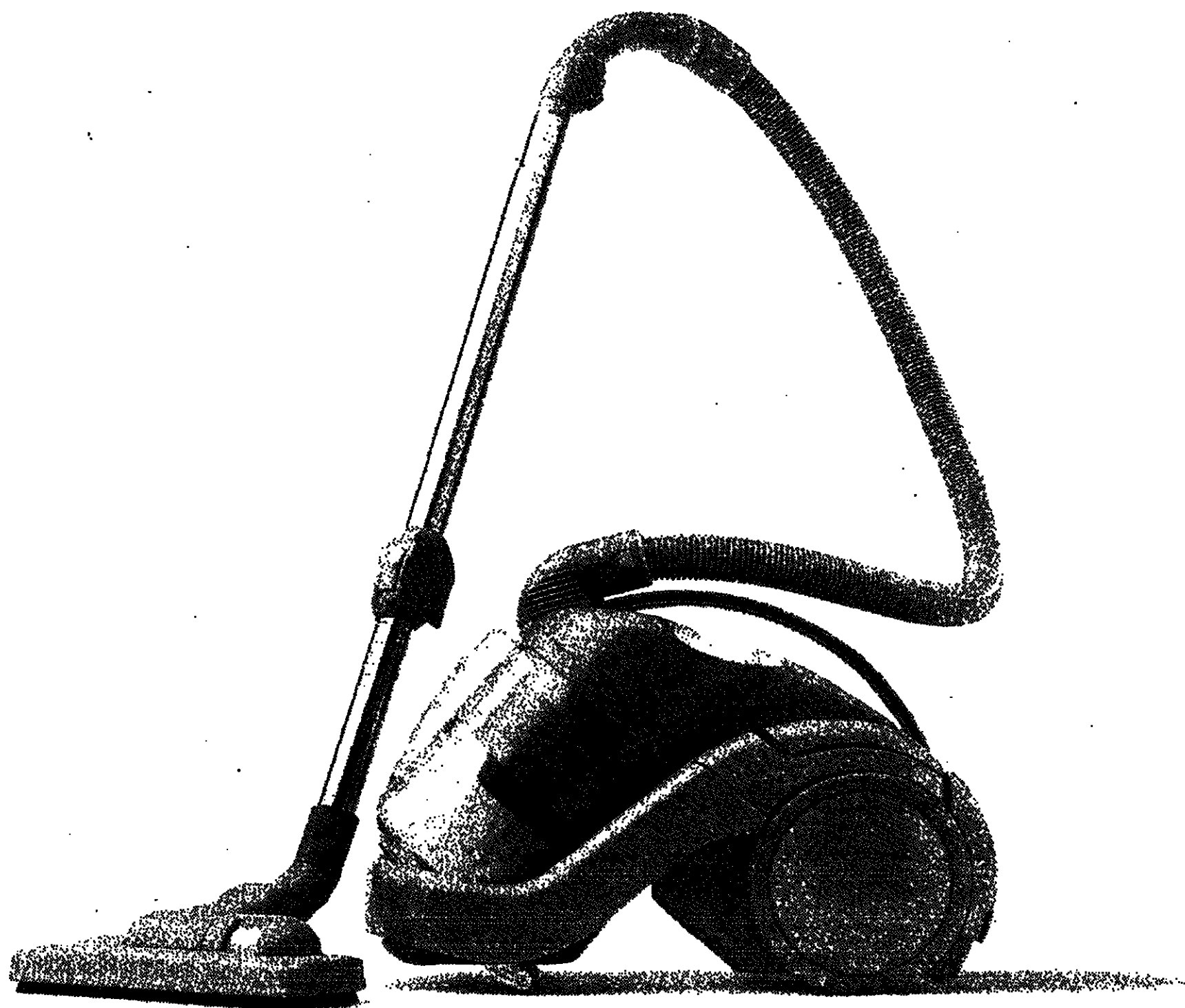
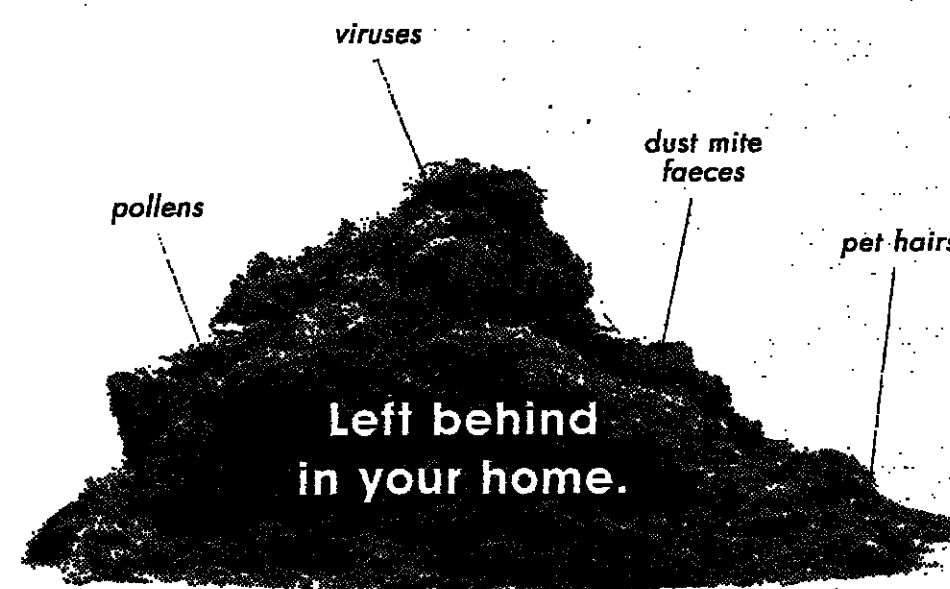
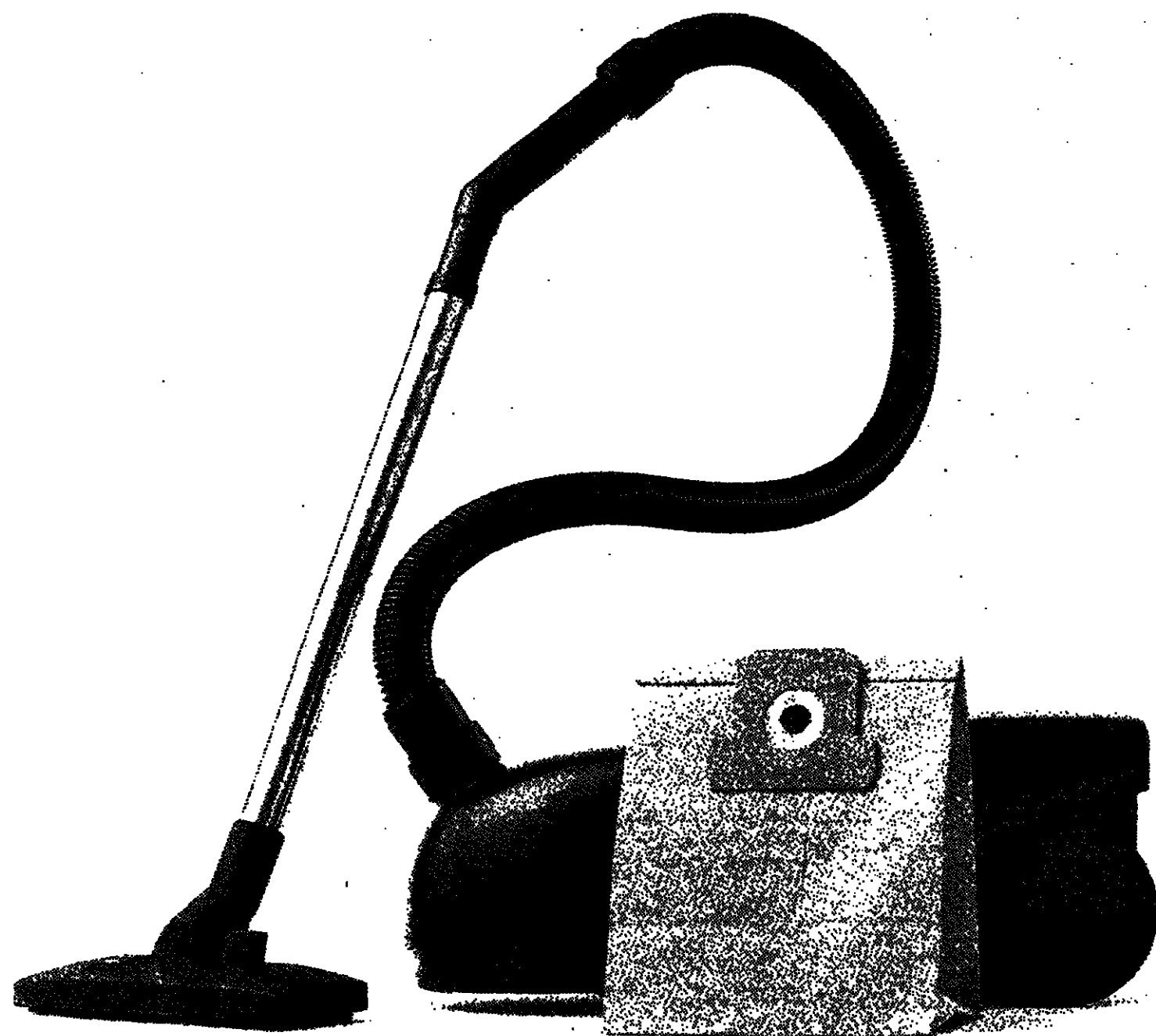


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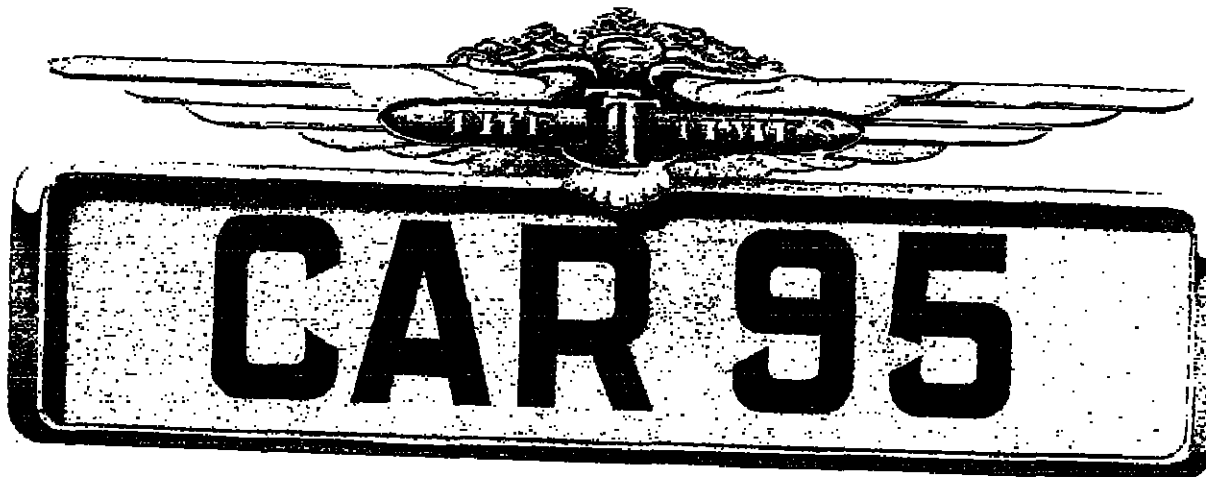
هكذا من الأصل





Kiki Dee strikes a pose at the wheel

Page 10



Dinosaurs give way to living roaring history

Page 5



SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 1995



KIPPA MATTHEWS

Three cars, nothing to pay: Paul and Wendy Tuohy with their children Christy and Ewan and the Volkswagens which no longer need road tax discs. "We were absolutely astonished. The Budget usually means we lose financially"

While the rest of the nation's motorists are counting the cost of dearer petrol and additional car tax, Paul and Wendy Tuohy are preparing to spend the extra £8 a week the Chancellor has just given them.

For they escape paying road tax — raised to £140-a-year in the Budget — on all three of their cars. While the exemption for cars more than 25 years old has been hailed by museums and classic car clubs as a great step in preserving automotive history, the Tuohys are a rare example of a family for whom it simply means cheaper transport.

Their three Volkswagens are among the 150,000 cars affected by the change, as are a number of eminently-collectable recent classics, such as the Ford Capri, "the car you always promised yourself", introduced in 1969, the Mini Cooper, the Rover 2000 and the Jaguar XJ6.

The tax break was greeted with delight by Lord Montagu, for whose National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, in Hampshire, it adds up to £42,000 a year. It might sound like small change to people at the Ferrari and Bentley end of the market, but it's a big slice of the motoring account for people like the Tuohys.

"We were absolutely astonished," says Wendy. "We had no idea this was going to happen and just kept wondering what was going on. The Budget usually means we have to lose financially, not gain this much unexpectedly."

The Tuohy family of cars is a collection that earns its daily keep. Their little blue Volkswagen Beetle, made in 1956, has been a bargain from the day Paul paid just £150 for it when he was 18, still running along happily even though the mileage counter has clicked round to take up all six digits at 106,000 miles. Wendy uses the car to do her rounds as a community nurse and for picking up the couple's two children from school.

They also have a 1959 VW Camper van in which Paul, now 31, commutes daily, tooting about ten miles along the A2 from their home in Kent with a bicycle in the back. Then he parks and pedals the rest of the way into central London, where he works as a charity fundraiser. The Camper is also the transport for the annual holiday to France, loaded with children, luggage and beach balls.

Their one motoring indulgence is a soft-top, a white convertible that still turns heads and just sneaked in under the Chancellor's 25-year rule. The 1969 Beetle Cabriolet only cost £1,500 when Paul bought it in 1985, so it has not

## Kevin Eason and Alan Copps on the £420 Budget road tax winners

only paid for itself, it is not now even going to cost him the price of a tax disc.

Paul says: "I was listening to the Chancellor and couldn't believe my ears for a moment when he announced the ex-

emption. It obviously means a lot to us as a family with three cars that now escape tax. We could enjoy more Budgets like that."

Another saving of £420 a year will be made by David Selby, who runs the Classic Car Auction List, the little black book of prices. He runs a 1966 Volvo P1800, a 1965 Vauxhall Cresta and a mammoth 1948 Hudson. "I think the Government didn't realise how large and vociferous the old car lobby is," he said.

The Chancellor introduced the exemption after rejecting a scheme for continuous licensing that had provoked a wave

of protests from the classic car lobby that caught even Whitehall's most seasoned civil servants, used to being bombarded with petitions and complaints, by surprise.

Tricia Pilkington, who runs the Totnes Motor Museum in Devon, had a 1,600-name petition ready last week but was told not to bother. She knew then something was on the way. "I gather they have had 20,000 letters of protest and more than 10,000 consultation papers were sent out. The Chancellor was in no doubt what a large section of the motoring population thought."

Kenneth Clarke was considering proposals for continuous licensing in an effort to crack down on the road tax evaders who cost the Treasury more than £160 million a year. But classic car enthusiasts feared

that would mean they would have to tax their vehicles whether on the road or not.

So an owner with several cars in various stages of restoration, or who used a car for one annual outing to a veteran car rally, would have to pay full tax regardless. Now drivers just have to declare that their cars are "off the road" while owners of veterans don't have to bother with the issue of road tax at all.

Roche Bentley, chairman of the MG Owners' Club and of the Association of Classic Car Clubs, said: "It's brilliant news. It will cost the Government very little and gives a great boost to the classic car movement." The association represents 347 clubs, which together have about 500,000 members.

There are a lot of people whose cars are not 25 years old yet, but the benefit will obviously increase. About 55 per cent of the 46,000 members of the MG Owners' Club will no longer pay tax on their cars."

Some motoring organisations complained that the tax exemption amounted to a

"bangers' charter", encouraging the preservation of old cars which spew out more pollution. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders was also critical. "The more environmentally-friendly we build cars, the more they get taxed. The opposite seems to be the case when it comes to very old cars. Where are we going wrong?" asked the SMMT's chief executive Ernie Thompson.

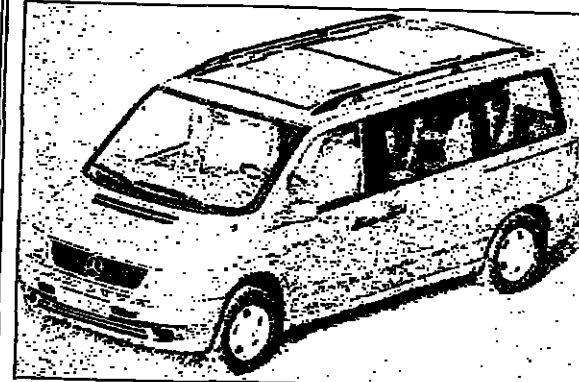
While the SMMT accepts that the pollution from cars 25 years and older — about 150,000 out of the 24.3 million on the road — is hardly significant, it is desperately opposed to anything that encourages the use of older cars when makers are striving to produce more environmentally-friendly products. In 1989 there were 5.5 million 10-year-old cars on the roads, now there are 7 million.

Graham Dymott, of the SMMT, said the organisation would continue to press for a "cash for scrap" subsidy of the type that has driven old cars off the roads and boosted new car sales in France, Spain and Ireland.

But the Environmental Transport Association, the "green" motoring organisation, says that would be a disaster because a quarter of all pollution caused by cars occurs during manufacture. It wants the money raised from car taxes ploughed back into alternative forms of transport.

Peter Barnard.....page 2  
Classic rally.....page 7  
Dr Dashboard.....page 8

## The space race goes into orbit



Mercedes V-class, top, and the Seat Alhambra

● The age of the people-mover, hailed as the family and leisure car of the future, is upon us. This week CAR 95 was given a preview of the latest contender, the Mercedes-Benz V-class. At the same time, Vauxhall announced plans to import their own version, the Sintra, from the United States and Seat, the Spanish carmaker, said it will be importing the Alhambra, its own version, from the same Portuguese plant that makes the Ford Galaxy and Volkswagen Sharan.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR FULL STORY

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## AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

## ● LONDON

The lights on London's official Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square will be switched on at 6.30pm on December 7. Traffic will be slow on all surrounding routes.

**A40** Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks between Hilary Road in Acton and the Northern roundabout. Traffic reduced to two lanes each way.

**A10** Great Cambridge Road, Enfield. Major roadworks between Lee Road and Bury Street, with traffic reduced to a single lane each way.

**A21** Kent. Roadworks and a contraflow on Sevenoaks bypass.

**A45** Buckinghamshire. Roadworks and lane closures at Milton Keynes, between the Abbey Hill junction and the Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout.

**A340** Hampshire. Roadworks with lane closures at the Town Centre, west roundabout, Basingstoke.

**A44/A40** Gwent. Roadworks continue between Newport and Monmouth, with much of the route reduced to a single lane.

**A465** West Glamorgan. Roadworks and a contraflow at the Glynneath interchange.

**A48** West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.

**A548** Cwyd. Roadworks and a contraflow between Oakenholt and Kelsterton.

**A749** Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge in Glasgow closed southbound for roadworks.

**M90** Fife. Roadworks and contraflow between junctions 1 and 2 (Admiralty-Masterion).

**M90** Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10 (Friarton Bridge).

**NORTHERN IRELAND** County Tyrone. Roadworks on Omagh bypass at junction with Derry Road.

junctions 1 and 2 (Tewkesbury-Ledbury).  
**M1** Leicestershire. Roadworks and a contraflow between junctions 21 and 22 (Leicester).  
**A11** Cambridgeshire. Work on new dual carriageway continues, with restrictions between Stump Cross and Worsted Lodge.

**NORTH**  
**M1** West Yorkshire. Roadworks and a contraflow at the end of the motorway at junction 47.

**M6** Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 22 (Lymm-Winwick).  
Northbound is reduced to two lanes at present, causing additional delays.

**A639** West Yorkshire. Roadworks on Park Road, Pontefract at junction with Park Lane.

**A595** Cumbria. Resurfacing work at Wigton with restrictions near the Red Dial junction.

**A565** Merseyside. Major roadworks on Derby Road, Liverpool between Blackstone Street and Bankhall Street.

**A56** Lancashire. Every weekend until Christmas, 8pm Friday to 6am Monday, Haslingden bypass closed southbound for roadworks at the Bent Gate roundabout.

**WALES**  
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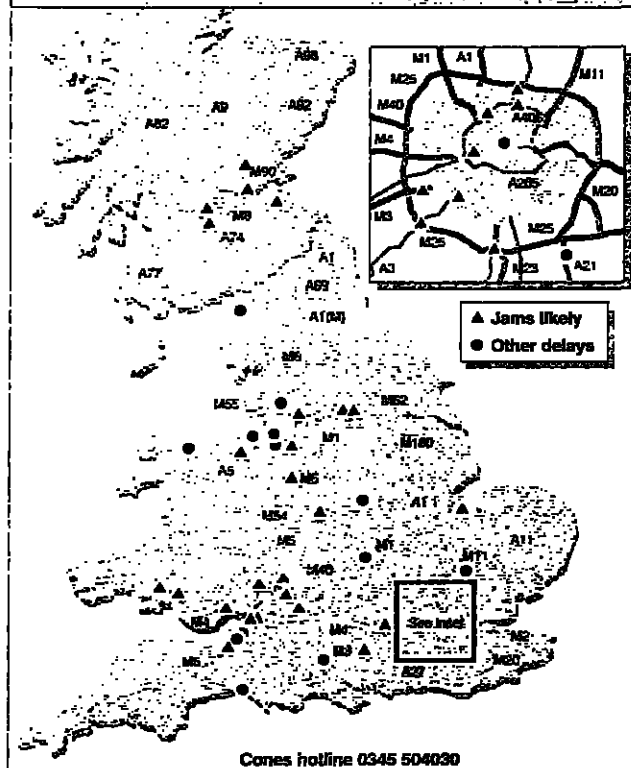
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## MAJOR ROADWORKS



Cones hotline 0345 504630

Petrol up again, another rise in car tax... once more the hapless motorist is used as the Treasury's milch cow

## Pouring fuel on our road rage

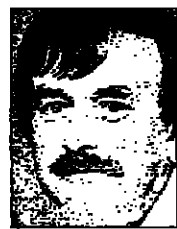
No wonder that Kenneth Clarke dealt with it in one sentence: "This year the tax rise for cars will rise by 15". He then rushed on to insist that honest motorists are irritated by road fund licence evaders, which we are, but not half as much as we are irritated at being the milch cow of the Treasury.

I shall not tire of saying that the road tax is an out-of-date anachronism just because the Chancellor refuses to listen. This week's 15 rise pays many times over for the abolition of the tax on cars more than 25 years old. It's enough to make one buy a Ford Capri.

That, plus the rise in petrol duty, means that people who use the roads are subsidising those who do not to a fantastic degree. I favour the exemption for classic cars, but the fact remains that the £42,000 a year Lord Montagu de Beaulieu will save is being made up by little or less.

The truth of the matter is that increasing the cost of motoring is an utterly cynical exercise. Nobody is going to give up driving when prices

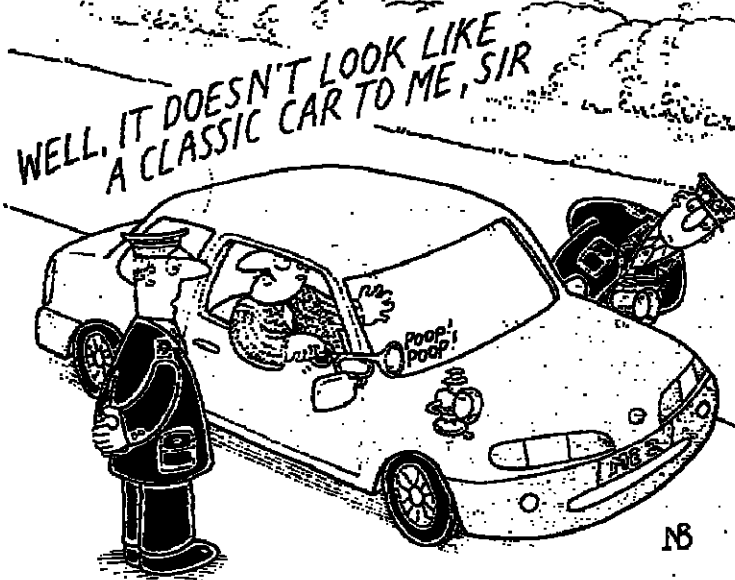
### DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

rise: how many smokers give up on grounds of cost? The unkindest cut of all is that the biggest burden falls on people who cannot possibly surrender their cars.

The Treasury gets £60 million for every 1p rise in the price of petrol, so the latest increase is worth the best part of £1 billion. The Government likes to give the impression that increasing fuel costs is part of some sort of moral crusade to make us use public transport. Absolute bunkum.



I live seven miles from the nearest train station and there are no buses between me and it. The nearest shop is a four-mile round trip. Down my way, children only encounter buses in picture books. Elderly carless people in the area rely on goodwill and taxis, whose fares will doubtless increase in line with fuel costs.

Thus do rural dwellers, many of whom can least afford to carry the burden, become the main victims of the painting-by-numbers economics

which dictate that motoring costs automatically rise every year because the Treasury cannot think of a more imaginative policy. Rural dwellers are hostages to the Treasury with no hope of escape.

If the increases in fuel duty were used as a means to replace the road tax, long advocated in this space, then the rises would make sense and cut costs — a great chunk of the staff at DVLA could be given something more useful to do.

Instead, bureaucrats are sifting down to work out a better method of catching people who evade road tax, which sounds like another excuse to fill a room with desks, telephones and mini-mountains of AA.

Until the day dawns when some degree of intelligence is applied to these matters, one can only conclude that Mr Clarke, for all his avuncular asides, is merely a conventional Treasury animal spouting conventional Treasury mantras. Like so many before him, he has entered the Treasury and gone native.

MY FACE has never been much of an asset, least of all when someone makes the connection between it and this column. A reader did so this week, taking me to task for getting into a car after a pint of bitter.

Actually it was four hours afterwards, and he should know because he pulled the pint for me. But at least the incident shows that my modest weekly contribution to the Christmas drink-drive campaign is not going unnoticed, and I don't for a moment dispute that one drink a few hours before driving could impair one's ability at the wheel.

But I think draconian attitudes are counter-productive. If we want the taking of a single drink to constitute a drink-driving offence, then let us have a (sober) debate and perhaps change the law. Meantime a sense of proportion would be helpful.

## Pump war 'risk to 50,000 jobs'

Independents say huge petrol price cuts by the giants will drive them out of business. Alan Copps reports

More than 6,000 petrol stations in Britain could be forced out of business over the next two years because they are caught in the crossfire of a fierce price war between Esso and the big supermarket companies, the Government has been told.

The Petrol Retailers' Association, which represents independent filling stations, is demanding an inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It says the closure of petrol stations could result in 50,000 lost jobs.

The main target for the retailers' complaint is Esso's "PriceWatch" campaign which has seen fuel prices in North-East England and Central Scotland cut by up to 10p a litre since it began in September. The PRA claims that Esso and the supermarkets are selling fuel there at less than cost price, thus crossing the boundary between fair competition and "predatory pricing".

It also fears that PriceWatch will soon be extended. The average price for a litre of unleaded petrol before the Budget rise of 3.5p per litre in duty was 51.5p and for four-star 58.1p.

But the PRA has the unenviable task of convincing drivers

that cheaper petrol prices may not be a good thing in the long term. It argues if independent local stations go out of business the major oil companies and supermarkets will be left with a virtual monopoly in many areas and be free to raise prices again. This, it says, has happened in France where prices are at least one-third higher than in Britain.

The "PriceWatch" campaign is Esso's attempt to win back its market share from companies such as Tesco and Sainsbury which are able to cut profit margins to the barest minimum because of the huge volumes of fuel they sell through petrol stations at hyper-market sites. Tesco has already pledged to keep its petrol at pre-Budget prices until Monday. Under "PriceWatch", Esso has promised it will match the lowest price within two miles of any of its filling stations.

Bruce Petter, director of the PRA, said in some cases that promise had resulted in Esso filling stations selling fuel at below cost price, cheaper than the wholesale price it would quote to supply an independent retailer. Most independent retailers are locked into contracts to take supplies from Esso or one of the other major oil companies at an agreed price. There are 17,000 filling stations in Britain, about 10,000 of them independent retailers.

"While lower prices are of course good news for consumers, I am afraid the benefits will be short-lived. Bluntly with Esso apparently selling below cost, there is no way that independent retailers can compete with artificially low prices," said Mr Petter.

"When the competition goes and prices rocket up, motorists may well have to get used to driving longer distances to fill up. We are already seeing this sort of thing happen, particularly in rural areas, a develop-

ment which has severe long-term financial and environmental implications."

Paul Jervis, vice-president of the PRA, quoted an example from Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, where, the day before the Budget, Esso was selling unleaded fuel at the huge Metrocentre shopping complex at 44.9p per litre. On that day the "Platts Oilgram" price, the industry's marker for trade supplies based on the Rotterdam spot market, was 40.31p per litre. But the Platts price does not include VAT. When 17.5 per cent VAT was deducted from the Metrocentre price, a litre comes out at 38.21p, 2.1p below cost price.

The PRA said one independent retailer, W. Eves of Whitby, had been forced to dismiss six employees and put a further ten on part-time working because of loss of sales.

Esso angrily refuted accusations of anti-competitive activity and said the price cutting was being led by other companies.

The "PriceWatch" campaign would continue. "It has never been our intention that PriceWatch could give us any control of the market. What it will do is provide our customers with competitively priced, high quality fuels at conveniently located Esso stations," said Pete Stanto, the company's retail planning manager. He added that last year, before PriceWatch began, 1,000 petrol stations had closed as a result of the highly-competitive market.

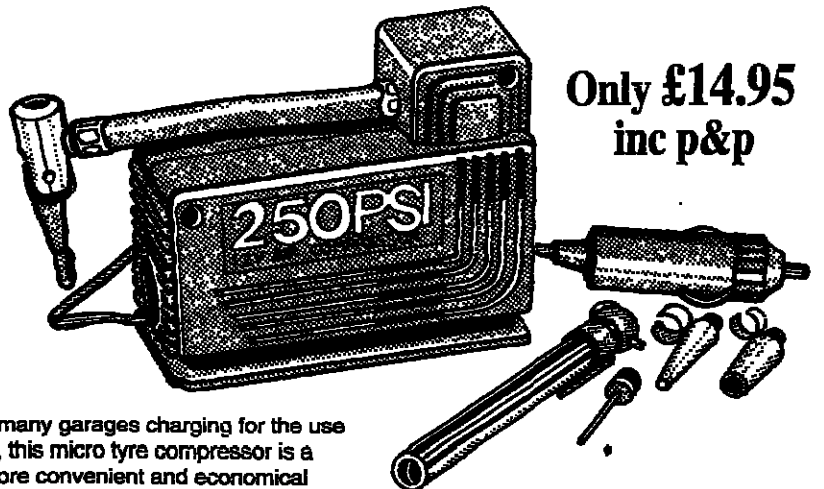
At the root of the argument is the huge inroads in the fuel market made by the big supermarkets in recent years. In 1990 they accounted for just 5 per cent of fuel sales, with independents claiming 45 per cent and stations belonging to the major oil companies 50 per cent. Now the supermarkets have 25 per cent, the independents 35 per cent and the oil companies 40 per cent.

It has never been our intention to gain control of the market



Cheaper motoring... but critics say drivers will end up paying more in the long run

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After 26 years, a famous racing trophy can be presented again, says Perry Cleveland-Peck

## Champion's cup comes out of hiding

One of motor racing's most famous trophies has been rediscovered after being lost for more than a quarter of a century.

The International Racing Driver of the Year Cup, traditionally awarded to the reigning Formula One world champion, was believed to have been lost 26 years ago when it's owners, Champion Spark Plugs, left their headquarters in Feltham, Middlesex, to make way for the expansion of Heathrow Airport and moved to new premises in the Wirral. However, to the delight of Champion, the solid-silver 10-inch high cup was found hidden beneath a pile of old papers in a little-used safe at their present headquarters in Upton, Cheshire. The trophy, to be insured for £5,000, will be presented for the first time

since 1970 at the Autosport Annual Awards Dinner at the Grosvenor Hotel in London tomorrow.

In the past the winner was chosen by readers of Autosport magazine from top drivers who had used Champion spark plugs. In practice it almost always went to the World Champion since almost all the leading racing marques used the company's products.

Under the traditional rules, Michael Schumacher who won this year's title for Benetton would qualify. But Damon Hill, the runner-up for Williams, and his teammate David Coulthard, who next year will be driving for McLaren, as well as rally driver Colin McRae who captured the World Championship title after his storming performance in last month's

Network Q RAC Rally will all be attending the dinner.

The last holder of the cup was Jochen Rindt who received it shortly before his fatal crash at the Italian Grand Prix at Monza in 1970. Previous winners include many of Formula One's greatest drivers, such as Jim Clark, Jack Brabham, Graham Hill and Jackie Stewart.

Robin Shaw, Champion's marketing manager, said: "The cup was last seen in a cardboard box when everything was packed up at the old Feltham plant in 1970. It was assumed it had been lost in the move. For it to turn up now is wonderful news. It was part of motor racing's history and tradition and now it is back where it belongs."

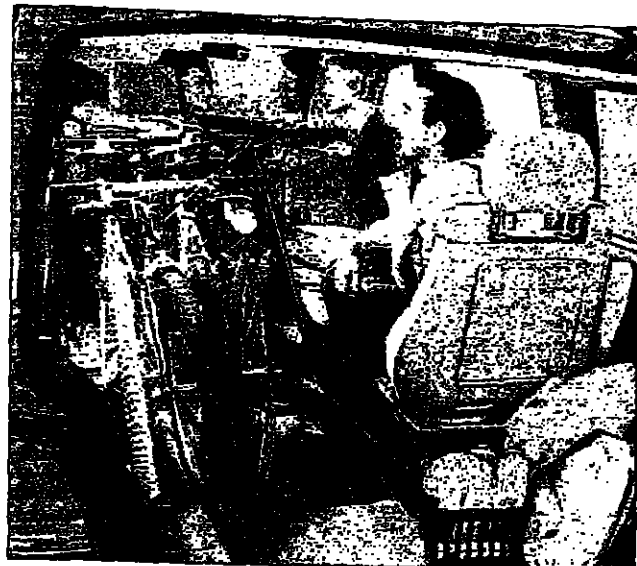


Jochen Rindt, the last driver to be awarded the trophy



Kevin Eason sees the people-mover with the coveted three-point star, but still wonders about the luggage

# Now Mercedes joins the space race



Room to spare... if you have the skills of Paul Daniels

Kirstin Hegner has no doubts... and she ought to know because she will have to shift 25,000 of them when Mercedes joins the pack of manufacturers trying to sell people-carriers when its V-class goes into the showrooms late next year.

Clearly, the men — and Kirstin, vice-president in charge of marketing the V-class — at Stuttgart do not share the scepticism of industry critics who fear that the people-carrier market could be overcrowded.

The V-class will come at the end of a long line when, within about a year or so, we will have been bombarded by models from Peugeot, Fiat, Citroën, Ford, Volkswagen and Honda. And we have still to come the Chrysler Voyager, one from Seat, and Vauxhall's own late entry, the Sintra. That's not to mention Renault, Toyota and Nissan,

who pioneered this kind of vehicle.

The logic the manufacturers use is that more and more car buyers want vehicles that double up as week-day transport and weekend leisure buses to cope with kids, bikes, picnic hampers, the odd surfboard and a pile of luggage. According to Ms Hegner, 34-year-old leader of the V-class project, the European market for people-carriers will be about 450,000 annually by the turn of the century.

"The V-class is for middle-class families who need more versatility and space, who don't want to be confined by a big saloon or station wagon," she says.

But what about luggage space? Every vehicle launched so far is packed to the doors with six or seven seats, but there is nowhere to put so much as a washbag in the rear once the family is belted in. Not so in the V-class, Ms Hegner said as she allowed me a sneak preview this week in Stuttgart.

Mercedes' engineers reckon the V-class has more interior room than its competitors — a bigger luggage area — and the mighty S-class even — and will swallow ten suitcases. Er, well it will... if you have a set of

Mercedes designer luggage and the stacking abilities of Paul Daniels. And you won't even have the assistance of the lovely Debbie when you try balancing a whacking great suitcase stuffed with T-shirts and trainers on its end in the slimline boot area.

Far from pushing the market for people-carriers forward, Mercedes seems to have been content to join the line of vehicles so often scathingly described as "vans with windows". The V-class is, in fact, a van with windows, sharing much of the chassis, suspension and body with the company's recently-launched commercial van range. Both vehicles will be built on the same assembly lines in Spain.

So don't expect the same sort of leading edge technology that has marked other Mercedes models out from the pack. The V-class is very much like its competitors on first sight — except it

has that coveted three-pointed star out front, of course. The driver cabin in the prototypes I could touch but not drive seemed unimaginative, although engineers have gone for a gearstick plugged directly into a steeply sloping fascia, instead of sprouting from the floor as usual.

The six- or seven-seat rear is roomy and — this is a first — they all get a three-point belt integrated into the seat, so when seats are switched or turned, passengers can still remain safe. Mercedes claims high levels of safety, a key point that will be latched on to by parents who want to transport their brood without bruising them.

The models on sale here will have sliding rear doors on both sides with standard equipment including driver and passenger airbags, anti-lock brakes, electronic traction control and air suspension. Power will come from a 2.3-litre petrol engine, initially with a 2.8-litre six-cylinder to come in 1997.

How much? For a specifications list that long and that Mercedes badge, start saving now. Ms Hegner and her team are not saying yet, except that the V-class will fit somewhere between C-class and the mid-



Mercedes V-class: following Peugeot, Fiat, Citroën, Ford, Volkswagen, Honda, Renault, Toyota and Nissan with Chrysler, Seat and Vauxhall coming up... have we that much leisure?



With integrated three-points belts, passengers remain safe when seats are turned

range E-class prices. A good guess would be about £25,000, which will put it somewhere near the very top-of-the-range and excellent Ford Galaxy.

That doesn't worry Ms Hegner. She says: "People will expect traditional qualities from Mercedes, so they will be

looking at something different than what is offered by other manufacturers."

With 25,000-a-year to sell — including about 3,000 in Britain — she will need to be confident there are that many people with that much leisure time, because this is almost

certainly going to be the second or even third car on the drive. Probably not Ms Hegner's drive, though. She has a 1969 Jensen-Healey two-seater to add to her Mercedes company car, a gorgeous leisure car... and still nowhere to put the luggage.

## AND WATCH THIS SPACE FOR THE VAUXHALL SINTRA

### From the place where it all began

LAST but not least, Vauxhall is joining the fray, but the company has put its faith in the nation that invented the people-carrier for its break into the market scheduled to happen early in 1997.

The Sintra will be the first Vauxhall made in the United States, sharing a floorplan with a Pontiac stablemate, produced in Georgia, although there will be a range of British engines available familiar to the company's customers here.

The range will be led by a 2.5-litre, 170 brake horse power, 24-valve V6, which comes from Vauxhall's factory at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside. There will also be a 130bhp four-cylinder Ecotec 2-litre and a base 100bhp direct injection tur-



The Sintra: built with US experience of people-movers

bo-diesel, an engine which should be seen soon in the Vectra line-up.

Everything else though will be made in America by the chaps at Pontiac who are developing a new generation TransPort multi-purpose people-mover for their own market. The Sintra will have sliding rear doors on both sides and up to eight seats.

Vauxhall will be hoping to cash in on some cheap manufacturing costs over there and the Americans' experience in making people-carriers. Although the world market is about 1.9 million-a-year, 1.2 million

of those are sold in the United States, where people-carriers have been around for years.

Vauxhall will be a little late for the party, joining the European market well after its competitors have launched their vehicles and tested whether there really is that much of a demand. But Vauxhall says that the American market is proof enough that Europe is ready to throw open its arms wide to the people-carriers sprouting everywhere.

Then again, the best-selling vehicle in the USA is a pick-up truck. What does this all mean?

## Fresh air and electric shock

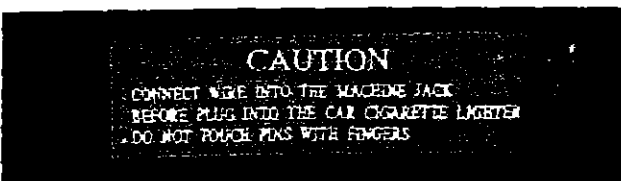
Before you buy a car ioniser and have it wired into your car, think twice. In April, our newly-fitted health device began to melt, filling the car with noxious fumes, wrecking the dash, damaging the electronics and scaring the life out of myself and my partner. Quite horrible, and supposedly a one-off incident, according to Oxford Trading Standards officers, but just in case you have a car ioniser, read on.

Car ionisers claim to improve the quality of air in your car. Available from mail-order companies for less than £20, they sit on the dash, plugged into a cigarette lighter or directly into the car's wiring.

The unit is small, about 90mm square, 30mm high, with an outer plastic case. Inside is a simple arrangement of needles, usually visible from the outside. An electric current runs a high negative voltage to the needles, which produces electrons. These then combine with particles of dust, pollen and smoke in the air which are deposited on surfaces, the idea being that the ioniser cleans the air. Manufacturers claim this facility can help sufferers of hay fever, asthma and brassy-mite allergies.

To fill you in a bit about ions, the atmosphere naturally

Rosalyn Lewis has a fitting warning if you're thinking about a car ioniser



Beware... but it says nothing about the size of fume

has both, but in certain areas and times there are more of one type. Negative ions are produced by the splitting of a water droplet, so any watery atmosphere, even sprinkling your garden, will improve the negative ion count.

Any hot dry atmosphere will therefore have more positive ions. The idea is that we feel better in a negative-ion rich atmosphere — by the seaside, by a fountain, or a lake — and worse in a hot dry one, which does seem to hold some truth.

But sceptics are unconvinced about how useful a modern ioniser is. A Which? report in March 1992 discovered that many devices for the home or office on sale did not seem to produce any ions at all, and the ones that did apparently did nothing notice-

able for the tester's perceptions of wellbeing.

Still, being open-minded, we bought a car ioniser from ME Design, a mail order company, and as our rather old Astra does not have a cigarette lighter, had it wired into the dash by a local garage.

The ioniser seemed to work. We did feel better after three hours in the car, fresher, less crummy. A hint? Alas no, for all benefits instantly evaporated when, 10 days after the fitting, the unit shorted out while we were on the road. Fortunately, no serious accident ensued from our emergency stop, but the dash was ruined and the car's electronics badly affected.

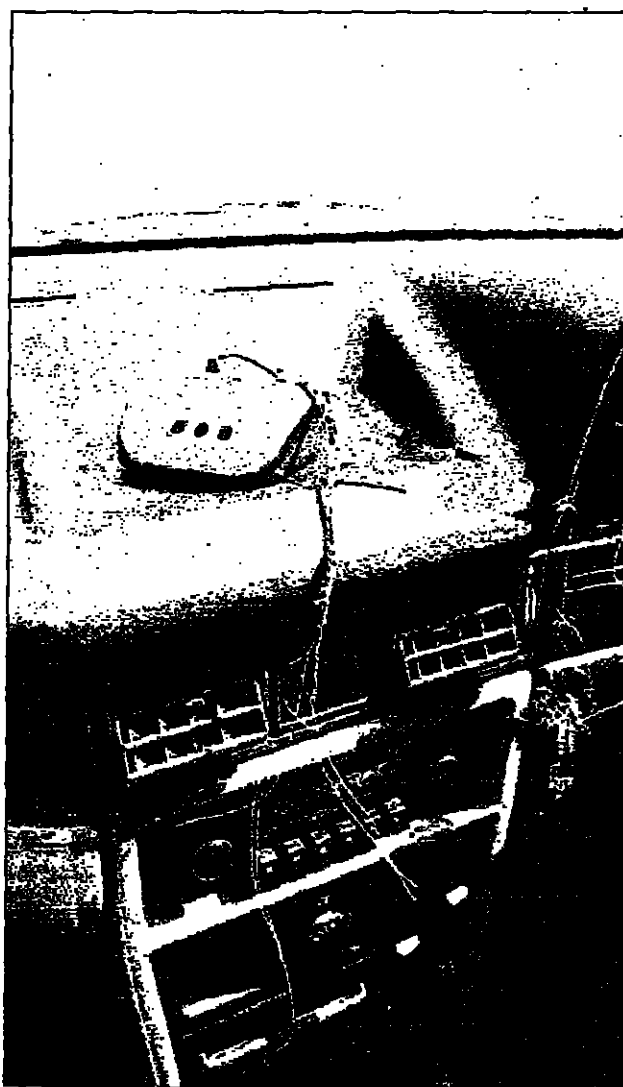
The immediate reaction of the garage was that the ioniser unit was faulty; the considered reaction of the importer, Dezac, was that the unit had been wired in to the wrong

ampage. Leading British ioniser manufacturer Mountain Breeze — who did not make our unit — then looked at the charcoaled remains and declared that the garage had been at fault and that, yes, a 20-amp fuse was far too large a current to fit to the unit.

Trading Standards officers have investigated. Dezac, the importer, has not stocked ionisers for several years, although I bought my Dezac ioniser in January of this year. ME Design now no longer sells car ionisers as a result of the TS investigation.

If it wasn't for a conversation with someone at Dezac, who said this sort of incident had happened before, the whole saga would be resolved. If you do buy an ioniser and have it fitted, do check the garage knows what it is doing. The ioniser we bought did not have any instructions about how it should be fitted.

And be careful: no car ioniser at present reaches British Electrotechnical Approvals Board standard. Having said that, our replacement Mountain Breeze ioniser appears to be working and seems to make a difference to the car atmosphere, although whether it has been worth the hassle I shall never know.



Dashboard danger: "The device began to melt, filling the car with noxious fumes and scaring the life out of us"

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cheaper Jeep

CHRYSLER has added a low-price version to its successful Jeep Cherokee 4WD range. The Cherokee 4.0 Sport has automatic transmission, anti-lock brakes, power steering and driver's side airbag as standard. It also has the Selec-Trac system which offers either two-wheel drive or full-time four-wheel-drive for road use and part-time four-wheel-drive in high and low ranges for off-road work. It is priced at £18,995. More than 13,000 Cherokees have been sold since the model was introduced in Britain in 1993.

### Peddalling Austin

THE CHRISTMAS auction season is upon us with a vengeance, but here's one with a difference: JOY 1, a prototype child's pedal car modelled on the Austin 8 of 1947, is expected to fetch £4,000-£5,000 at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, Sussex, on Monday. The design was commissioned by Sir Leonard Lord, head of Austin, who thought that the car would provide work for miners forced to retire through lung disease. Unfortunately, it never went into production.

### Vectra rockets

MORE THAN 20,000 orders have been received for Vauxhall's new Vectra, the replacement for the popular Cavalier, which went on sale in October. Hatchbacks represent 80 per cent of all orders for the car which also comes in saloon versions. Its increased width and wheelbase provide a more comfortable ride than the Cavalier.

### Peugeot's million

THE Peugeot 306 built in Coventry as well as in France and Spain has become the fastest-selling model in the maker's history. The one millionth 306 rolled off the production line on Budget day, 33 months after the car's launch.

### Correction

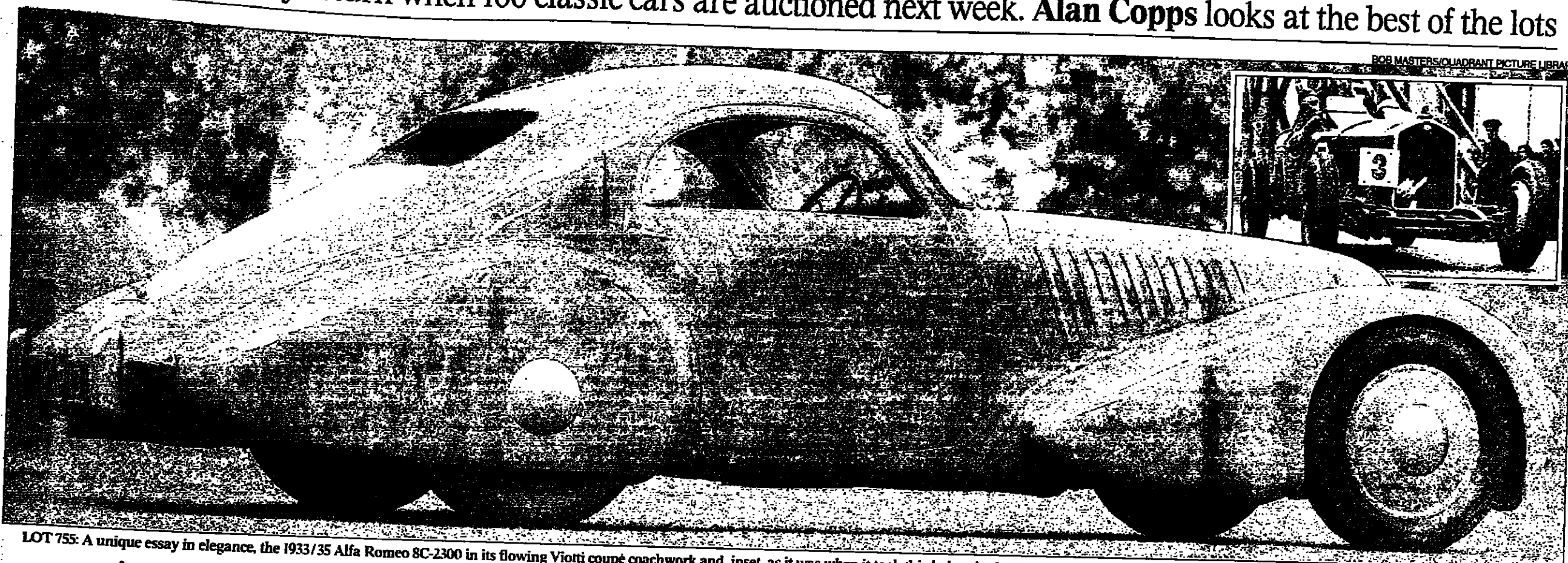
IN OUR Citroën ZX test last week, the 632-mile journey undertaken was from Calais to Salon de Provence, not Dijon as stated. The mpg calculations were correct.







Record prices may return when 100 classic cars are auctioned next week. Alan Copps looks at the best of the lots



LOT 755: A unique essay in elegance, the 1933/35 Alfa Romeo 8C-2300 in its flowing Viotti coupé coachwork and, inset, as it was when it took third place in the Le Mans 24-hour race in 1933 driven by the Hon Brian Lewis and Tim Rose-Richards

## Any more bids? Do I hear £1m?

For once, poor old Di-plodocus, that 80-foot-long, 10-ton dinosaur whose skeleton dominates the Natural History Museum and the imagination of so many children, will have to yield pride of place.

For on Monday the place will house automotive history. A hundred cars from 1900 to 1981, some holding an important place in the dreams of an older generation, go under the hammer.

Almost every auction catalogue comes through the post bearing the claim "a sale of important collectors' motor cars". But the classic car market has been in the doldrums since the early 1990s and only this year has it begun to show signs of real life. The claim of "importance" cannot be disputed for many of the cars in Brooks's winter sale this time.

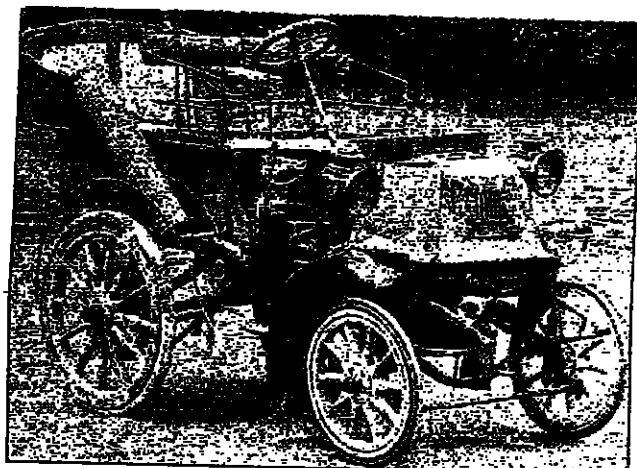
"This is our biggest sale since 1991. We are very strong on motor racing and the historic sporting world and this is the cream of the crop," says Robert Brooks.

Although he is guarded about the possibility, this sale could see the return of the £1 million car — a price talked about for the London-Edinburgh Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, that completed that journey in both directions entirely in top gear in a reliability trial in 1911, to establish the marque's supreme reputation for quality. It featured on the cover of *CAR 95* in September when it repeated the same trip, driven by Stewart Skilbeck of Brooks.

Robert Brooks says that one difference now is that more people are buying such precious old cars with the intention of using them on the road rather than simply storing them as investments. "A lot of the big collections are being used more and more. The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu regularly campaigns its cars and the Dutch motor museum uses 30 to 40 per cent of its exhibits on the road.

"The risks in racing are comparatively minor, most mechanical things can be fixed these days and historically many of these cars were modified through the decades to keep them racing."

In one sense this is a good thing, having stilled the widespread criticism that too many fine machines were being mothballed by speculators. But it is not without its problems, as Robert Brooks points out. One of the most splendid-looking cars in the auction is a 2.3-litre Alfa Romeo with a uniquely elegant coupé body by the Italian coachbuilder Viotti, dating from 1935. But under its sleek skin this is the same car that came third in the Le Mans 24-hour race in 1933 driven by the Britons, the Hon Brian Lewis and Tim Rose-Richards. It was later sold to an Italian dealer and fitted with the new body. Its subsequent history includes a long spell in Africa and later ownership by Major Teddy Owens, who became general manager of the Cooper Car company in Surbiton, Surrey, when that firm was making its own impact on the



grand prix world. It then passed into the Griffiths-Woodley collection, which forms a substantial part of Monday's sale.

"At the time it competed, the Le Mans body was regarded as disposable. But the competition chassis is a type much sought-after for historic racing. It would be a shame, but it must be a possibility that someone might buy this car, remove the Viotti body and restore it to Le Mans specification for historic racing," says Robert Brooks. For sheer elegance, the Alfa is only matched by the 1938 SS100 Grey Lady coupé, unchanged star of that year's Earls Court Motor Show, and described as the most desirable early Jaguar to come to auction.

No estimate has been put on the Grey Lady or the Viotti car, but another rare Alfa Romeo in the sale has already passed the £1 million mark and must be the nearest challenger to the London-Edinburgh Rolls-Royce in the sheer price stakes. This is the Alfa Romeo Tipo 8C-35, in which British racing pioneer Dick Seaman won the Donington Park Grand Prix in 1936. Last raced more than 40 years ago and virtually untouched since, this was one of the Alfa Romeos from Enzo Ferrari's team pitched against the mighty Mercedes and Auto Union cars in the mid-1930s grand prix battles — a surrogate struggle for fascist pride between Hitler and Mussolini. It is thought to have been driven at that time by Tazio Nuvolari, whom many still argue was the greatest grand prix driver, and whose name adds yet more glamour to an extraordinary pedigree which fetched £1.6 million at the height of the market in 1988. Prices are more realistic now and its estimate is around £900,000.

If the Alfa proves the most expensive of the racers on offer, perhaps the car likely to appeal most to British emotions is the 1961/62 BRM P578, known as Old Faithful. Graham Hill drove it when he won the World Championship in 1962 and, after 12 years of effort, the car finally landed the Constructors' Championship for BRM, the great White Hope of British motor racing.

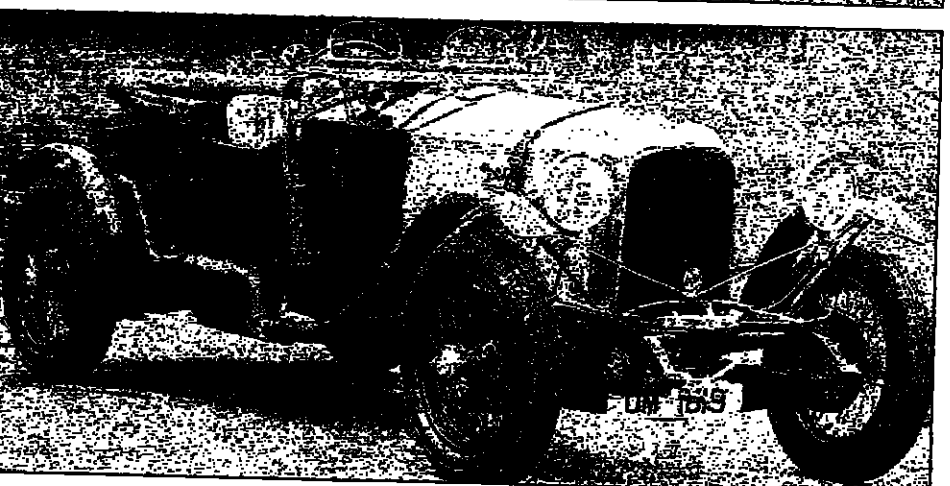
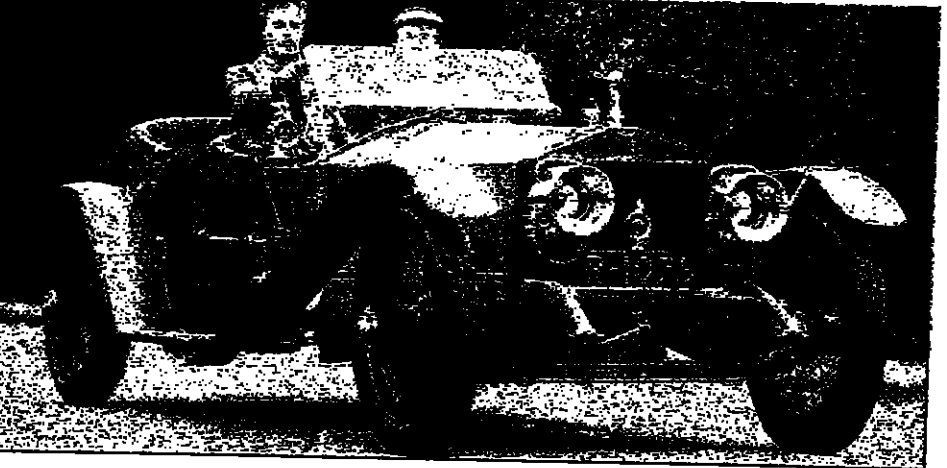
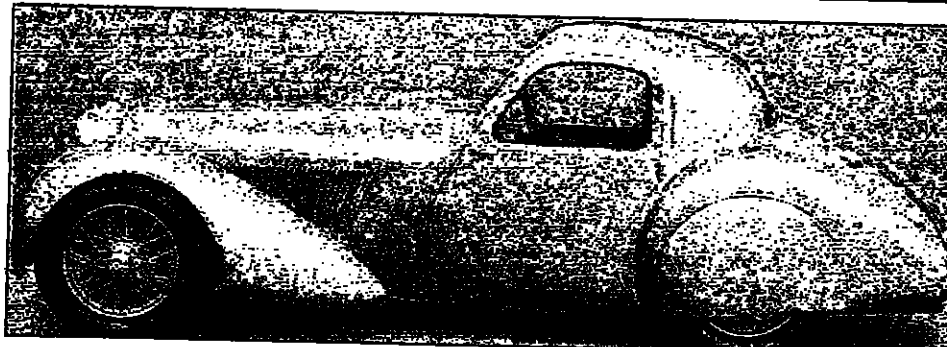
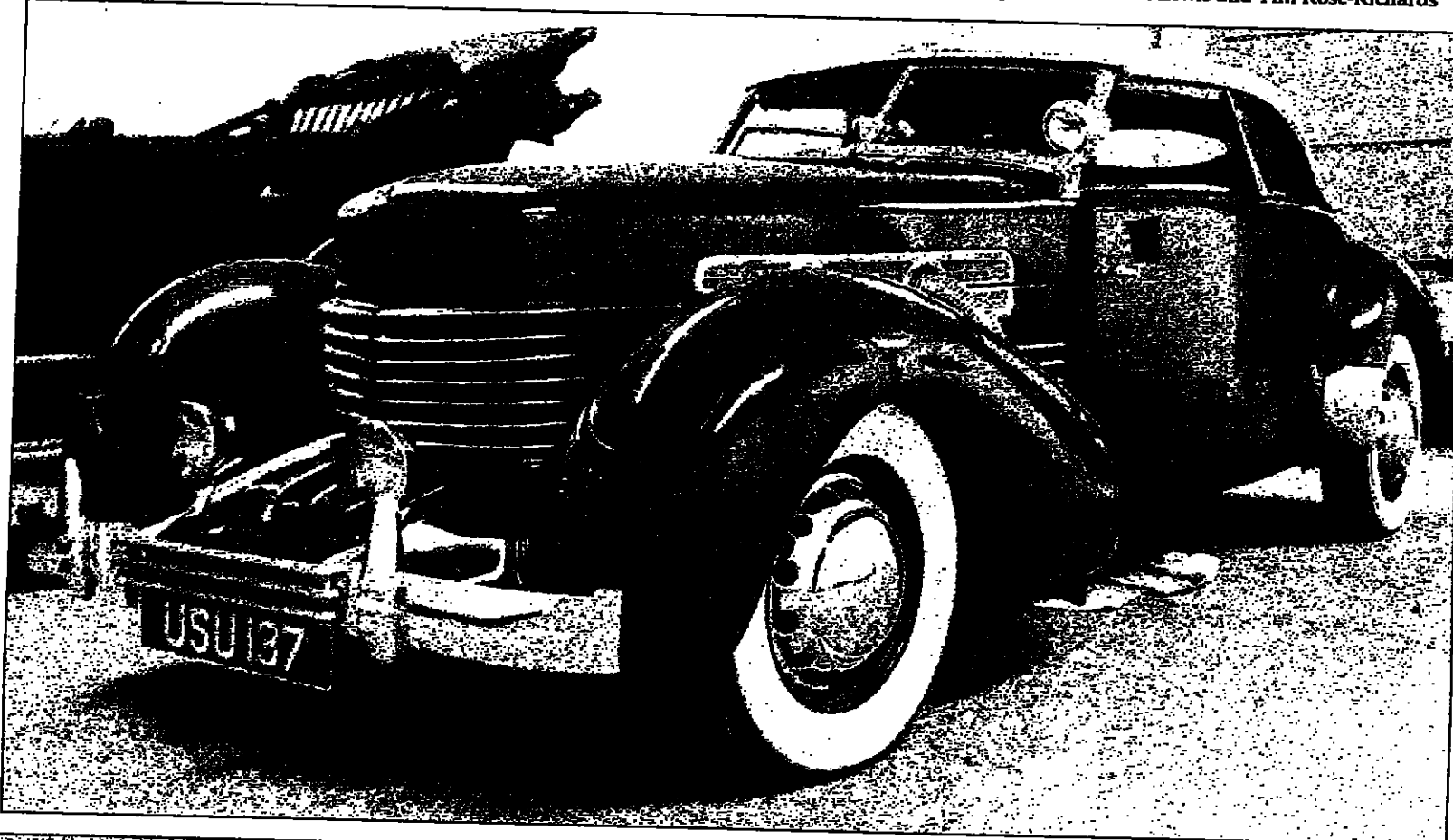
What is astonishing about this car when compared to current Formula One machinery, which never lasts more than one season and is virtually rebuilt between races, is its

phenomenal mileage. Its career spanned four seasons and 20,000 track miles during its championship campaigns alone. It still makes regular appearances at historic race meetings and its engine is, touchingly, described as "running, though tired". Robert Brooks isn't worried about that description. "You don't need to listen to Pavarotti. Just sit and listen to that car rev to 9,000rpm," he says wistfully. Its estimate is £230,000-£280,000.

Hard on its heels is another BRM which lasted four championship seasons, the 1964/68 car which now has a 3-litre V12 engine and was driven at various times by Graham Hill, Richie Ginther, Jackie Stewart and Innes Ireland. This has the added attraction of having played a starring role in the 1966 film *Grand Prix*, alongside James Garner and Eva Marie Saint. A snip at £140,000-£180,000. An earlier great white hope of British motor racing is represented by

another very rare car, a 1935 2-litre ERA voiturette. But there is plenty of interest lower down the price scale. Another car from the collection built up by photographer Guy Griffiths and Jaguar executive Roger Woodley is a pre-production Jaguar XJ6 from 1968, only the fifth made of the model known as the "car that saved Jaguar". In need of some restoration, its estimate is just £800-£1,200.

See *Trabant*.....page 10



Clockwise from top left  
 LOT 832: A 1900 Daimler discovered in a barn in 1953 and unrestored  
 LOT 791: Cord 1936, once exhibited at the New York Museum of Modern Art  
 LOT 772: The last racing car built by Talbot-Lago, 1956/Picture, Brian Joscelyn  
 LOT 761: Dick Seaman's Alfa Romeo, Donington 1936/Picture, George Monkhouse  
 LOT 823: Linton's best kept secret? Vauxhall 30-98 1925/Picture, Bob Masters  
 LOT 816: As new, a Heinkel Bubble Car 1938, estimate £5,000  
 LOT 827: Simply the best. The London-Edinburgh Silver Ghost 1911  
 LOT 768: Graham Hill's BRM in the 1962 British GP/Goddard Picture Library  
 LOT 850: The Grey Lady, 1938, "Most desirable Jaguar"/Picture Bob, Masters





[illegible]

Best prices paid for  
quality used BMW



# The power and the glory of motoring

Appropriately driven by a man called Noble, a time-honoured Lanchester joins its elegant contemporaries today to travel the length of Britain. Alan Copps reports on a surviving giant of the past

Peter and Sue Noble will set off from Land's End at dawn today in their huge 64-litre, 1924 Lanchester to follow a course just as testing and rather longer than that of last month's RAC Rally.

As the oldest car, their three-ton noble monument to engineering excellence will lead a field of 112 crews on Le Jog, the initial-crafted nickname of the Land's End to John o'Groats Reliability Trial for Historic and Classic Cars. But while many might feel that 1,650 miles in three-and-a-half days with just one overnight stop is a punishing target, for the Nobles it is little more than, well... a jog.

For, assuming the Lanchester completes the course — and Peter Noble would hardly contemplate any other outcome — they will be setting off in January on the Vintage Monte Carlo Rally, merely a further preliminary to their next ambition — the 90th anniversary Peking-Paris rally in 1997.

The Lanchester "40 horse" is one of only 12 known to exist and the only left-hand-drive Lanchester of any kind to survive. Its proportions and statistics are majestic, its build quality — long before that term was invented — makes a Rolls-Royce look like a middleweight and a modern Volvo a bantam. Its bodywork is a mine of precious metals. Some of its technology, 71 years later, is the equal to that of a modern limousine.

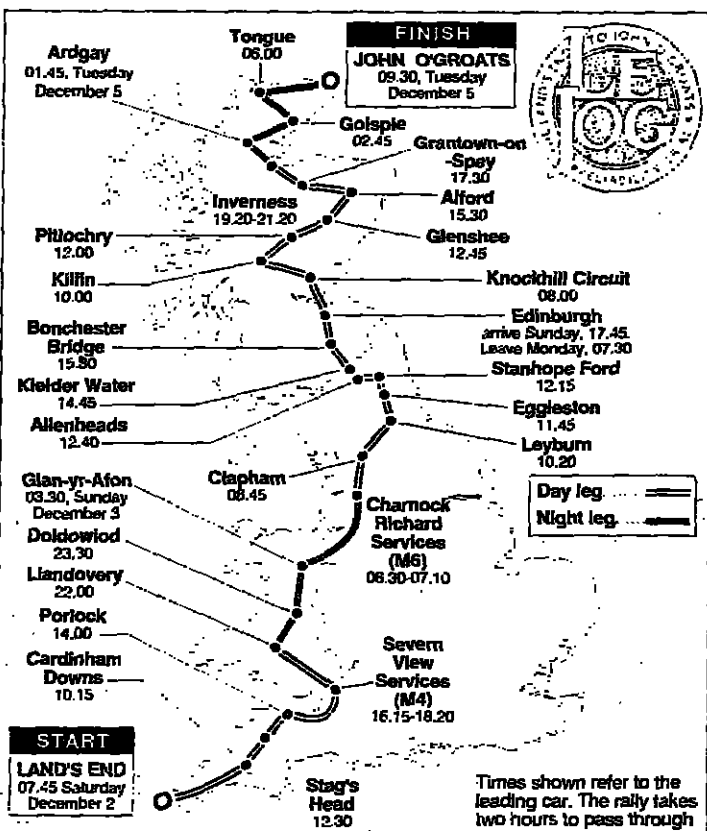
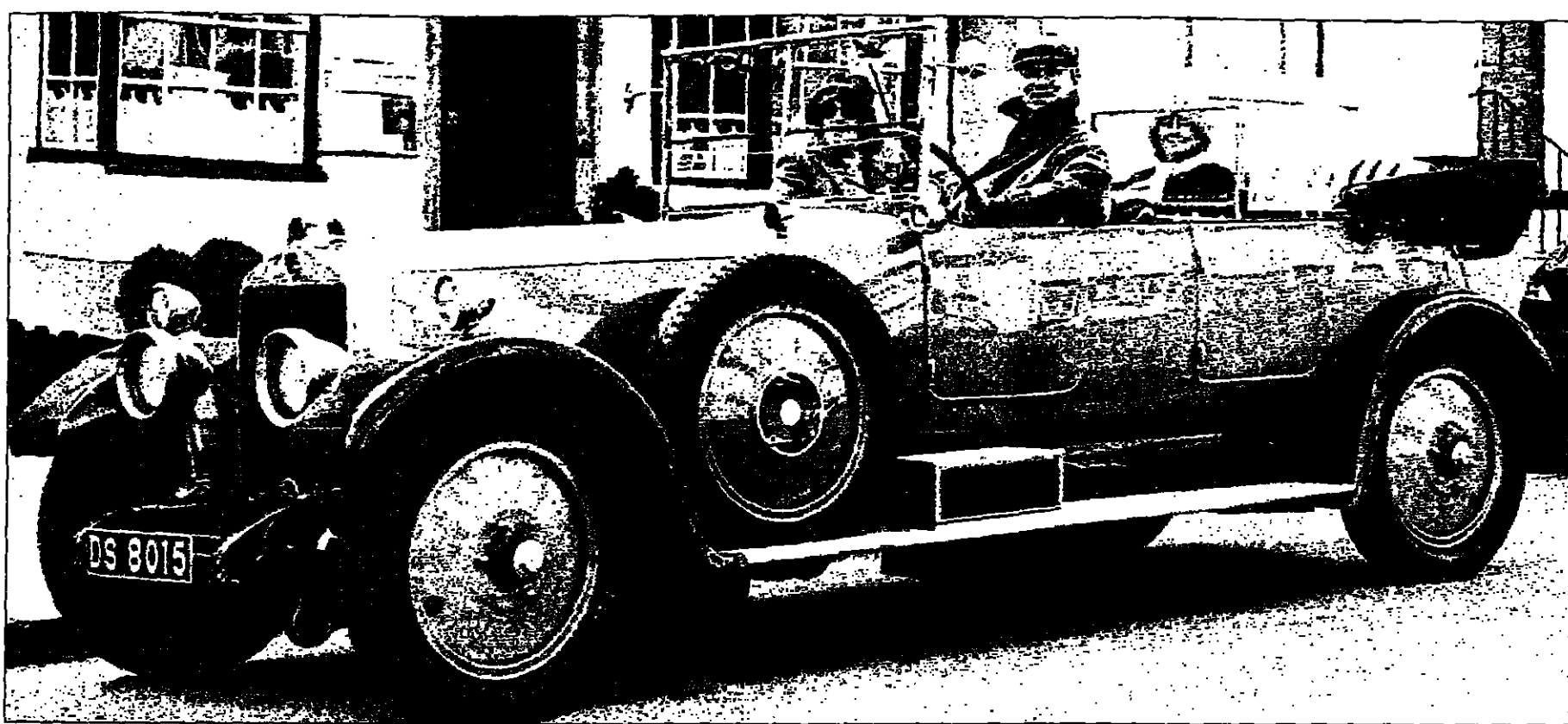
The 64-litre, straight six engine has an overhead camshaft and the 20-inch brakes on each wheel are power-assisted by hydraulic servo. The power is transferred to the wheels through an epicyclic gear-

box, forerunner of automatic transmission, and it can accelerate from 3mph to 83mph in top gear. The basic chassis members look like steel railway sleepers and the bodywork is aluminium, duralumin, bronze and solid nickel (in the Second World War, large numbers of these cars were scrapped to retrieve these materials).

The fuel tank holds 37 gallons of petrol, the radiator nine gallons of coolant and there are nine gallons of engine oil, four of gearbox oil and one-and-a-half gallons of oil in the back axle. "It's a car from an heroic age," says Peter Noble. "It was really the first British car, but the company was bought by Daimler after going under in the depression of 1931. George VI had two Lanchesters when he was Duke of York, the Emperor of Japan had one. Haile Selassie had one and countless Indian Maharajahs."

In a concession to "rally trim" unlikely to be appreciated by any of those illustrious owners, for Le Jog, the hood, rear luggage rack, rear seat and a few other items have been removed to achieve a weight saving of 28 stone. Such Spartan preparations are unlikely to prove much hardship for the Nobles. They bought the car in 1990 with just 32,000 miles on the clock and have since managed to add a few thousand on trips including last year's Le Jog and Classic Marathon through Europe from the Czech Republic to Italy. "We bought this car for a round-the-world trip," says Peter Noble.

But as yet their mileage in the Lanchester is modest compared to the extraordinary expeditions they



have undertaken in their other current rally car, a 1955 Bentley Continental, nicknamed "Hero". These include two Asian journeys, one to Peking and Hong Kong, and one across Tibet to Saigon, a ride across North Africa and the London to Mexico rally earlier this year, 10,460 miles through 18 countries. After finishing the latter, they returned a few weeks later to Mexico and took part in the Carrera Panamericana road race.

Pitched against the formidable Lanchester in the large Vintage class are a Bugatti Type 44 and two Bentleys. Entries for the small Vintage class include two rare rarities, a 1930 "chain gang" Frazer Nash driven by Bill Ainscough, another London-Mexico driver, and a 1935 Brough Superior. Entrants are divided into six age categories which tackle special stages of varying difficulty, including manoeuvrability tests, circuit



A mine of precious metals on wheels that was bought by kings: Peter and Sue Noble in the front of the Lanchester, top, the car at John o'Groats at the end of last year's rally, above right, and Peter checking the engine. "It's from an heroic age," he says. "It was really the first British car"

driving, hill climbs and regularity controls. There are secret time checks on the regularity sections and competitors will be penalised according to the second. The whole event is sponsored by Heritage Classic Car Insurance and Classic Rescuerline (the latter service is unlikely to be needed by the Lanchester).

The main prize, the Heritage Trophy, will be fought over by teams of three cars, whose names give the best indication of the atmosphere in which Le Jog is conducted: The Alvis Hares, the Horizontal Opposition (Jowett Javelins), The Magnetic Force (MG Magnettes), the Old Motor Rileys, the Three Healeyaters and the Dagenham Dustbins (Ford Cornes). There is a *Concours de Confort et d'Elegance* for the most original looking car.

There are 23 foreign competitors, 17 of them from Holland and others from Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and Finland. One entrant, Bruce Berrelooth, is flying in from Hong Kong to drive a Volvo PV544.

It might all be great fun but there will be no shortage of fiercely competitive driving on the tougher special stages, especially among the more recent cars in the Sixties Historic and post-Historic classes, vehicles made between 1960 and 1978. The entry list abounds with names from rallying history. Neil Wilson, who won the RAC Rally with Henri Toivonen in 1985, shares the wheel of a Porsche 356 with Willy Cave, who was a member of the successful BMC team in the 1950s. Another member of that 1950s team, champion navigator Don Barrow, is driving

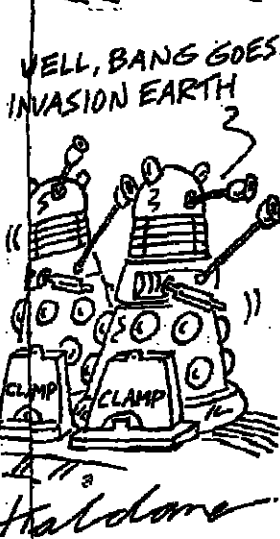
an Austin Healey 3000, and former British hillclimb champion Roy Lane drives a Volvo Amazon.

There are 34 different makes of car, ranging in age from 17 to 71 years. The most popular is MG, with 21 entries from a tiny 1935 PB Midget to a couple of MGB GTVs. There are eight of the big Austin Healeys and one smaller 100/4, nine assorted Volvos, seven Fords and seven Jaguars, five Porsches, five Triumphs and four Rileys.

The procession takes between two and two-and-a-half hours to pass any point along the route. The field is neatly packaged between the Nobles enormous Lanchester and the equally impressive "tail-end Charlie", a 1978 6.7-litre Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith driven by Jonathan Lyons.

CAR 95 next week will carry an account of the Nobles' journey.

## CAR TOONS



## Helen Mound discovers the financial advantages of little-known car insurance companies

### Cover that's cheap and very cheerful

My first mistake was thinking I could afford to run a sports car. My second was choosing an insurance company I'd heard of. With credentials like mine — motoring writer, under 30, hasn't held car insurance for eight years — most companies wouldn't insure me in a Fiat Panda, let alone a Mazda MX-5 convertible, so I was dutifully grateful when my broker found three well-known firms that would offer me cover.

The first year's quotes were staggering: AA £995, Eagle Star £950, Norwich Union £845. The second year's reduced quotes were equally alarming: AA £945, Eagle Star £899, Norwich Union £795. Then a solution revealed itself when a friend's Seat Ibiza was struck by another car and needed substantial repairs. I was turning to myself about his hasty choice in "cheap" car insurance with one of those new-fangled companies when, the following day, he received a replacement car. The battered Seat was rebuilt within a week, and returned valued.

The "cheap" insurance is a policy with Privilege, a year-old company launched by Peter Wood, the man who made his millions with Direct Line. Like its stablemate, Privilege sells direct over the telephone, cutting out the need for brokers, and it is stealing up to 450 policyholders a day from the big firms.

The company claims there are around six million "non-standard" policy holders in Britain, discriminated against because of their age, vehicle, driving record, occupation and health. As the first company in the UK to sell high risk motor insurance directly over the phone, Privilege expects to hold at least 10 per cent of the "non-standard" market within four years, which will mean handling 600,000 high risk motorists a year. Already it has 52,000 policyholders.

Privilege is also attempting to improve drivers' awareness for safety and security. To cut

the risk of accidents — and get a 10 per cent discount — policyholders can attend a driver training course at any BSM driving school, costing between £49 and £55. The course involves a two-hour assessment with an instructor who identifies any of your bad habits and potential hazards.

Drawing attention to security, all its performance car owners are asked to fit a British Insurers approved engine immobiliser, and if other policyholders fit one it offers them a 12.5 per cent discount.

I asked for a quote and the response was extraordinary: £470 and no more special conditions than others insist

on. How can Privilege in some cases cut the competition's quote by half? The company begins by explaining that the "non-standard" market is serviced by 12 companies using around 10,000 brokers, who demand up to 15 per cent commission. Buying direct insurance policies cuts out commission.

"Our greatest strength is new technology," explains Jim Wallace, Operations Director. "We can adjust our rates rapidly. If every Porsche quote in a matter of days results in a sale, we know our quotes are running too low. Our rates are changed as fast as they can be entered on the computer, the

larger companies take two or three months to ensure all brokers get that information, so they take longer to be competitive."

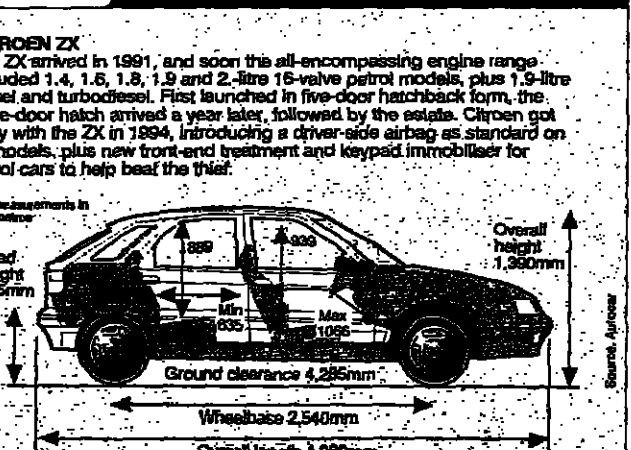
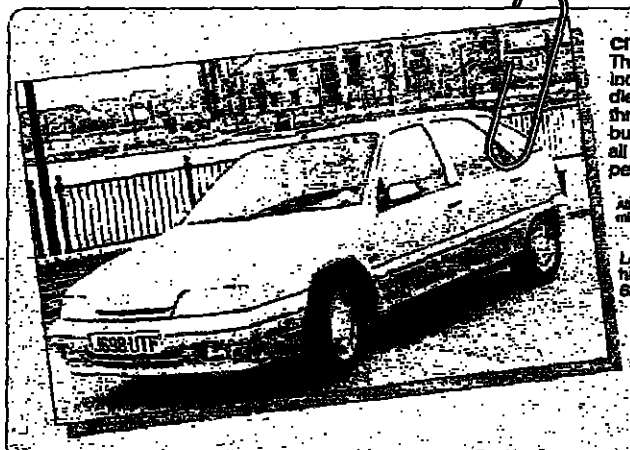
The most attractive feature about Privilege is its ability to avoid discrimination. According to Brand Manager John Grimbaldeston: "Motorists in certain careers are penalised because of the people they mix with. A pop star is likely to give pop star friends a lift in their car, a journalist might do the same for a celebrity. The potential injury liability is massive, and most insurers consider anyone related to the

celebrity world, however slight, is a risk."

"We take a more realistic approach. There's no point in penalising a junior journalist from a local gazette on the off-chance he might give Eric Cantona a lift and then damage his legs. We still have to take into account the potential liabilities, but we take a closer look at each case."

It's no surprise that the insurance company that's rattling the establishment appeals to young drivers, certain professions, disabled drivers, high-performance cars and those with bad records.

## USED CAR BRIEF



**GOOD NEWS:** The ZX has won many fans in its short life as an excellent hatchback that offers far more by way of drive and comfort than the volume-built competition (Escort and Astra). Power steering and brakes combine with well-sorted suspension for agreeable driving.

**PRICES:** Expect to pay £4,500 for a 1992 1.1i three-door hatch, £5,000 for a 1995 M-reg Reflex 1.1i five-door estate, £5,750 for a 1992 K-reg ZX Advantage 1.8i five-door hatch, £6,600 for a 1993 L-reg ZX Reflex 1.8i three-door, and £5,750 for a 1992 1.8i ZX Advantage 1.8i diesel five-door hatch.

**LOOK FOR:** The diesel cars in particular are highly rated for their sophisticated performance, quiet running and smooth power delivery. The 522hp turbodiesel is worth seeking out over the 1600cc 1700hp 1.9 diesel as it offers better performance with little if any penalty on fuel consumption.

**OVERALL:** Not one of Citroen's weakest-looking cars, but a winner nevertheless. As a high-mileage family car the 40-60mpg turbodiesel makes most sense, though for a bit more zip there are also the bigger engined petrols including the 1.8i and 1.6-litre 2.0-litre Volcano models, which will top 125mph where permitted.

**SAFETY:** All cars got seatbelt pretensioners from mid 94 to 1992 K-reg ZX. In the event of an accident, the ZX's safety credentials were further upgraded with the arrival of a driver-side airbag standard from late 1994.

**REPLACEMENT PARTS:** Prices include VAT (clutch assembly £125; full exhaust £275; front damper £55; rear damper £40; front brake pads £50; alternator £150; starter motor £30; tyre £45).

**AVOID:** Cars with uneven wear on the front tyres can prove expensive investments, especially if steering pulls to one side indicating major problems ahead. Smaller engined 1.4-litre petrol cars can be noisy.

## 50 '94 M-REG CARS UNDER £7,000

MODEL	Nov-95	Dec-95	Chge
Rover Mini 1300 Sprite	4275	4195	-1.87
Citroen AX 10 Debut 5dr	4850	4450	-8.24
Daihatsu Mira 5dr	4550	4475	-1.64
Ford Caro 1.5 GLX 5dr	4250	4195	-1.29
Fiat Cinquecento 3dr	4195	3995	-7.15
Fiat Panda 1.0 CLX 3dr	4175	4095	-2.15
Fiat Uno 1.0ie Start 3dr	4575	4495	-1.74
Ford Fiesta 1.1i 3dr	5295	5175	-2.49
Hyundai X2 1.3LS 5dr	4895	4775	-1.54
Lada Riva 1500 E 4dr	3095	2850	-7.91
Lada Samara 1500 GL 5dr	4895	4475	-4.40
Nissan Micra 1.0L 3dr	5525	5425	-1.80
Peugeot 106 Graduate 3dr	5795	5675	-3.79
Peugeot 106 1.4 XR	6725	6495	-3.42
Proton 1.3 GE 4dr	4895	4825	-1.43
Proton 1.3 GL Aeroback	5650	5575	-1.32
Renault 5 Campus Prima 3dr	4450	4375	-1.68
Renault Clio 1.2 Prima 3dr	5875	5725	-2.55
Renault Clio 1.9 RL Prima Diesel 3dr	6250	6275	0.40
Rover Metro 1.1 Quest 3dr	4475	4475	0.00
Rover Metro 1.1 C 3dr	5095	5095	0.00
Rover Metro 1.1 S 3dr	5825	5825	0.00
Rover Metro 1.4 LD 5dr	6275	6275	0.00
Seat Ibiza 1.3 GLX 3dr	5475	5295	-3.26
Skoda Favorit GLX 5dr	4850	4850	0.00
Skoda Favorit GLX estate	5350	5395	0.84
Subaru Vivio GLI 4WD 5dr	5095	4795	-5.88
Suzuki Swift 1.3 GS 3dr	6095	5950	-2.37
Vauxhall Corsa 1.2L Merit 3dr	5875	5775	-1.76
Vauxhall Corsa Merit Diesel 5dr	6125	6225	1.63
Rover Mini 1.3i Cooper	5375	5295	-1.48
Asia Rocstar Hard Top	6475	6375	-1.54
Dacia Duster GLX estate	3875	3825	-1.29
Daihatsu Charade 1.3 GSE 3dr	5375	5275	-2.79
Fiat Punto 55 S 5dr	5550	5795	4.41
Fiat Tipo 1.4ie S 3dr	5850	5750	-1.70
Fiat Tempra 1.8ie S 4dr	6125	5925	-3.26
Ford Fiesta 1.1 LX 5dr	6325	6395	1.10
Ford Escort 1.3 5dr	5750	5850	1.73
Kia Pride LX 5dr	4925	4850	-1.52
Nissan Micra 1.3 LX 3dr	6475	6295	-2.77
Seat Toledo 1.6 CL 5dr	6475	6395	-1.20
Subaru Justy Si 3dr	6095	5995	-1.64
Rover Maestro 1.3 Clubman 5dr	5095	4995	-1.96
Citroen AX 1.1 Forte	5525	5275	-4.32
Seat Marbella 900 Fun 3dr	3595	3750	2.50
Ford Fiesta 1.8L Diesel 3dr	5875	5795	-1.36
Ford Fiesta 1.3i Auto 3dr	5895	5995	1.69
Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Merit 3dr (60ps)	6550	6850	1.52
Kia Mentor 1.6 SLX 4dr	6950	6350	-4.51

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecast prices. MSRP = manufacturer's suggested retail price. Price changes based on M-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Motor Research.

ROVER has joined its parent company BMW, Fiat and Renault in a Europe-wide agreement to recycle as much as possible of scrapped cars. Rover will assume responsibility for recycling all four marques in Britain and the three other makers will each adopt a reciprocal policy in their home country.

The programme works by agreement between makers and scrapyards to reclaim metals, plastics, rubber and other materials, thus reducing the need for dumping automot-

ive scrap in landfill sites. Although the agreement was announced in advance of the Budget, it will coincidentally relieve the motor industry of some contributions to the £7 a tonne landfill levy introduced by the Chancellor.

Rover is already leading a British programme called CARE. Scrapyards which meet rigorous environmental standards become approved CARE agents, working to strict procedures for the recovery of raw materials and disposal of dangerous waste.



# Scorching fire on the road

Paul Myles is carried away by the power of Honda's latest superbike

On the Continent, the main role of the motorcycle remains that of a cheap and convenient mode of transport, but in Britain bikes have become objects of pleasure — magic carpets to whisk their owners off and away from horrid reality.

No single machine so clearly defines this quiet revolution as the Honda CBR900RR, more commonly known as the Fireblade. For this top-of-the-range 900cc sports model, sold every other motorcycle in Britain last year, in a total market of 51,174, it sold 1,774, more than any other powered two-wheeler including mopeds, a feat being repeated this year by the slightly smaller CBR600. It's like Honda's NSX supercar, out-selling the Ford Fiesta.

The latest version of the Fireblade was launched recently at the grand prix circuit of Catalonia, a beautiful track set in the ugly industrial suburbs of Barcelona. But Honda is not just selling a bike; it is marketing a dream.

The new version is lighter — just 183kg — and faster, thanks to an engine stretched to 918cc providing 128 bhp. Minor modifications refine the beast, but do nothing to tame its image or performance. This is a sharp-fused by racer, not a practical commuter. The riding position, made more user-friendly this year, is still very much stretch-forward-

feet-back and guaranteed to cripple after several hours in the saddle.

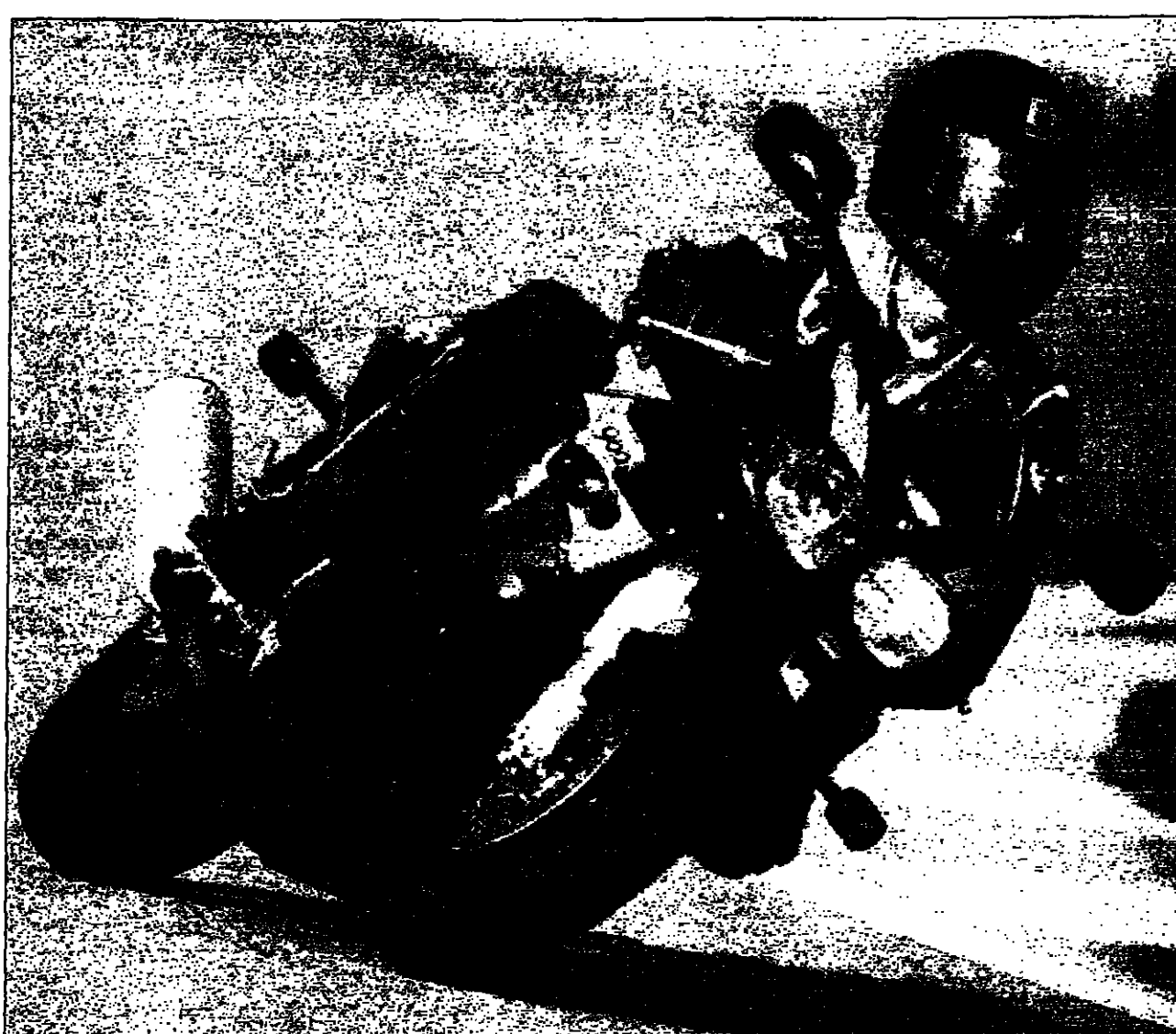
This is a grown-up's mobile. Dinky toy. A slice of escapism that, despite a recession, could still persuade many of the bike-buying public to scrape together the £9,265 to enjoy it.

To ride the machine was divine. While the true speed demons at the launch spent a good deal of time endlessly adjusting the huge front forks and rear shock, I found the standard settings ideal. Even under full power out of bends it was difficult to persuade the 'Blade into anything more than a slight shake of the head. This bike can be held on its heels (the unfortunate name for the steel stud footpeg protectors) round a 90mph corner.

Steering is superbly light, allowing a quick flick through the Catalonia chicane. Yet the bike remains rock solid along the seemingly endless right-hand sweepers and the horribly long start/finish straight, the end of which makes full use of the massive twin front disc brakes.

Power is every bit as smooth as the old 'Blade, but the larger motor provides noticeably more torque over 7,000rpm, firing the bike up to its redline of 11,000 often quicker than you can stop it. It inspires and flatters at the same time. This mere mortal can report that the machine's limits are far beyond his own.

The machine's limits were far beyond my own



Lean and hungry: the Fireblade's back tyre broke away on a 100mph corner with little more than a heart tremor

Yet the hero balls were kept forced into the ground on some corners, and the back tyre broke away on a 100mph corner with little more than a heart tremor to mark the event.

In short, there is nothing I can say to puncture the bubble of reverie that potential Fireblade owners will be enjoying after reading those words. For these people, according to Honda UK's own research, tend to be men from brickies to company directors in their early thirties, often with a family, a mortgage and a couple of cars.

Their Fireblades will stay under wraps on wet and weekdays, and edge menacingly out of the garage only for summer Sunday thrashers or a hedonistic trip to the TT races.

For the bike importers know that motorcycles are now very much leisure items, with exotic achieving sales and sensible commuter mopeds struggling to make an impression. Government legislation must take a large measure of responsibility for this sea change. The two-part bike driving test effectively matches the inconvenience and cost of taking lessons towards a car test. Insurance companies are the other major culprit, often charging many times more to cover youngsters on power limited motorcycles than to drive cars.

Young people, naturally enough, are steering a path to cars, leaving the bike-buying power in the hands of those of us in middle years with enough fiscal muscle to pay for something very special.



Modifications do nothing to tame image or performance

## DR DASHBOARD I started feeling ill on Tuesday...

**Q** I am suffering from a severe attack of Budget blues. What has caused this?

**A** This is a disease which affects most motorists when the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivers his annual statement. This year, I fear an epidemic after he increased the duty on fuel by 19p a gallon, and the road fund licence by £5 a year, while cutting the road-building programme.

**Q** Is this a fair way to treat an innocent motorist?

**A** No, but you should have learnt by now that life is never fair. To put it in a nutshell, the Chancellor is demanding £21bn a year in taxes from motorists, that's 12 per cent of his total tax take, and spending less than £2bn on new roads. Of course, he has to spend some of our money on maintaining the roads and supporting public transport, but there's still a huge gap.

**Q** What's his excuse for this highway robbery?

**A** He wants to control public spending and in doing so is taking account of opposition to some road plans.

**Q** So is all this supposed to be good for me?

**A** It depends whether you live close to the proposed roads or are always stuck in traffic jams because they don't exist. Mind you, with pollution high on the political agenda, ministers think it better if motorists are discouraged from using their cars.

**Q** What's the remedy for my depression?

**A** Ah, that's a question no doctor likes. I certainly wouldn't recommend giving up the car, because with the imminent privatisation of the railways and fierce competition affecting bus operators, public transport isn't going to get any better.

**Q** I suppose there could be some cheering news. Do these road cuts mean that all those protesters sleeping in trees will stop filling my television screen and go home?

**A** I'm afraid not. The Newbury bypass is one of a dozen schemes which are still going ahead.

**Q** And will they go home after that?

**A** It depends on what happens to road plans around Stonehenge. It will just need Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, to decide to drive a new dual carriageway past the stones for the protesters to come out in even greater force.

**Q** So do you have any good news for me?

**A** Yes, Sir George has privatised private firms to put up another £500m on roads which they will build and run. This includes improving the route from north of Bradford via Skipton to the M6 in Cumbria and making more of the A303 between the M3 and Devon into dual carriageway.

**Q** But nobody thinks private companies will be able to run the railways, so why should they be capable of running roads?

**A** The Government will offer incentives by agreeing to pay a 'shadow toll' for every vehicle using the new roads. It will be in the companies' interests to build and maintain the roads properly so that more traffic uses them.

**Q** That sounds like real competition.

**A** It does. You might even get companies advertising their roads on television with slogans like 'Beat the holiday jams to the West Country; take Betterbuilt's fast-moving Road 303'.

### MORGAN

PLUS 8 Drop head coupe. Dark blue with grey leather. One of only two ever built. 2400hp. 5,500 miles only. Special plate. Must be seen. Tel: 01753 46611. No time-wasters please. £27,900. Call 01753 46611.

### JAGUAR & DAIMLER

90 H 40 Jag auto, black/ grey leather. 39k. 1 owner. 1991. £10,995. 01753 46611. 90 H 40 Jag auto, black/ grey leather. 39k. 1 owner. 1991. £10,995. 01753 46611.

### JAGUAR & DAIMLER

3.0, 1991, auto, Soleo Blue. 38,000 miles, electric sunroof. FJSH. Original owner selling. PK considered. £10,995. Tel: 01323 405707 or 01323 442929 (eves).

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I had that Morag Preston in the back of my cab once. All day driving round London. Only cost her a tanner

## Life's so much easier with a personal taxi

**E**vil weather, heaving crowds and aggressive store assistants make the thought of giving up my precious Saturday to Christmas shopping a little less appealing. But there is an answer: my very own London cab and cabbie at my beck and call.

The antidote came my way when I won a raffle at a rather swanky lunch. Courtesy of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, my £10 ticket transformed into a £200 ride. My carriage was on loan from Jamie Borwick, 40, chief executive of Manganese Bronze, London's largest taxicab makers. In the traditional

"jelly mould", Mr Borwick's shiny new personal cab, sprayed a unique brown, is "club class", fitted with deeper seats, air-conditioning, soundproofing and an intercom.

Colin Chin, 35, my cabbie for the day, was at my door on the dot of nine o'clock. We drove to Sainsbury's in Wapping and, while I toured my local supermarket, Mr Chin stayed in the car park to read his newspaper.

Mr Chin's own cab is a "G" reg Fairway in burgundy; it cost him £18,500 to buy, £400 a year to insure and £2,000 a year to maintain. He covers 35,000 miles a year, and works 10-12 hours a day, except

Sundays. "I've been a cabbie for seven years and it's a chore now," he said. "When I'm not working, I tend to let the wife drive."

The son of a wealthy Chinese architect, Mr Chin began his running commentary as we made our way towards the bagel shop on Brick Lane. "Once you've conquered London, nothing else compares. Because I was dedicated, it only took me two years to get my green badge."

After a late breakfast at my brother's in Pimlico, I was heading towards the Brompton Road to browse for Christmas gifts between Harrods and Harvey Nichols, when a



Where next, Madam? Morag Preston and Colin Chin on a day of Christmas shopping without parking problems

red car cut in front. "Driving has definitely got more aggressive," said Mr Chin. "There are so many cars on the road that people get impatient. But I'm doing a business, and can't afford to have an accident."

Mr Chin's worst passengers

are "the ones that think you can read their minds" or "the ones that think they know best". Occasionally, he will pick up someone famous, but Gazza's is the only autograph he has asked for. Then there are the Americans. "They al-

ways ask you to do U-turns. But sometimes they won't come in my cab, because it isn't black."

Waiting to transport me for lunch at Mezzo in Soho, my cab was one of many outside the Hyde Park Hotel. "During

the day, I like working around the South Kensington and Chelsea area," said Mr Chin. After a quick visit to the National Gallery and a pit-stop to pick up some photographs from Boots on Piccadilly Circus, Mr Chin took me for a cup of tea at the Royal Oak, London's largest taxi centre. "It is quite intimidating," he said as we drove across wasteland towards a fleet of around 60 taxis, diesel pumps, cab wash facilities, and prefabricated huts.

"I used to come here every night, but this is my first time in three years," said Mr Chin, who now prefers to meet with fellow cabbies at a Chinese in Westbourne Grove. "The green shelters are more cliquy. There's only room for seven cabbies, and they don't like new faces."

At the Royal Oak, where a solid meal costs under £4, nobody even looked round when we walked in. The 15 men were either chatting, sucking on Mars Bars and drinking tea, or watching the rugby on television.

**N**owadays, Mr Chin eats his lunch in his cab and only nips out occasionally when nature calls. "They have closed down a lot of toilets, but the best ones are still on the Pimlico Road. Usually, I just run into a hotel when I'm waiting on a rank."

"The good thing about being a taxi driver is that you can do as you please. We're all a one-man band, but we help one another out. Our driving style is no different from limousine drivers. But when you're a chauffeur, you've got a boss again and you have to work to his times. The only thing that gets up my nose is the traffic."

Starting at 9am and working to 7pm, Mr Chin can take his daughters to school and drop them at Brownies on a Monday evening. "Kids like to travel in a taxi, but there's still a stigma about being a cab driver. Among the middle class, people think black taxis are just for well off people."

From Royal Oak, I went to visit friends in Archway, then to meet a girlfriend in Camden. She hopped in, and, as my curfew approached, we headed towards the Fire Station restaurant in Waterloo.

Twelve hours since my introduction to Mr Chin, he left me with two pieces of information. "There's a saying that you'll never pick up the same passenger twice" and "People used to tip before the recession, but now it's out of fashion."

## All according to Europe's taste

Hilton Holloway explains why and how Honda did a rethink



The Accord: banishing the feeling of an oversized go-kart

**W**hen planning the 1996 Accord, Honda asked a question that would have once been unthinkable: Why have the Europeans turned off Japanese cars?

The Accord, built at Swindon and with 80 per cent European parts is free from import restrictions, yet has been outsold by nearly three to one by the more expensive Rover 600. So what has happened?

The market research found first that buyers think Japanese styling a little anonymous. So the 1996 Accord gets a stylish new nose, complete with chrome edging. The tail has also been modified and visually lifted with a chrome fillet over the number plate and chrome strips are integrated into both bumpers.

Second, Japanese cars feel rather lightweight to drive compared to the average "quality" European brands such as Audi or BMW. Steering tends to feel vague and Japanese engines need to be revved hard to gain the best performance. In Euro-minds, a feeling of "weight" equals quality.

So Honda has fitted a new European-made power steering rack which gives the Accord more pleasantly weighty steering. Changes have also been made to the suspension and body mountings have been stiffened, giving the car a quieter and more mature ride and banishing the feeling that it is an oversized go-kart.

Three new engines have also been introduced, all of which are significant additions to the range. A new 1.8-litre 115bhp engine is fitted to the basic Accord. Like all Honda engines, it is fitted with balancer shafts which give it an uncanny smoothness.

Surprise of the range is the new 150bhp 2.2 VTEC engine. Honda's VTEC system, which alters the timing of valves, can give either extra economy or performance. Unfortunately, European taste wasn't for a

powerful engine that needed to be revved like a motorbike. Hence the new 2.2 unit, which feels like a good, solid, European engine. On my test drive, the VTEC had enough mid-range pull to negotiate tight mountain switchbacks in third gear without any complaint. On motorways it felt immediately fast in all gears.

The final new engine is a diesel, something Honda has always said it would never build. Indeed it hasn't, as this is the L-series Rover engine, also fitted in the 600. As a direct injection unit, it is both more economical and powerful than a conventional diesel. Sadly, in the Accord at least, it is noisier and rougher than many other oil burners.

**H**onda expects to sell just 5,000 TDIs Accords each year, as Europe is the only significant diesel market in the world. In fact, the French are to blame for twisting Honda's arm. In the Accord's class, 80 per cent of French sales are diesel-powered.

Other Euro-biased improvements include a reduction in cabin road noise, a smoother clutch, greater headroom under a new sunroof and changes to interior plastics and fabrics. Even the doorbins have been redesigned.

In you are a private buyer, the new Accord has much to recommend it. The standard specification is generous twin airbags, remote central locking and alarm, electric sunroof, windows and mirrors, high rear stoplight and split fold rear seats. The entry level 1.8 Accord will cost less than £14,000 - a very keen price, especially for a car of this class. Add in the two-year warranty and strong second-hand demand, and it looks like a very sensible buy.

And if you can stump up around £21,000 for the excellent top-of-the-range 2.2 VTEC, you'll be driving a car that feels just as European, if not more so, than the (more expensive) flagship Rover 600.



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